

# City of Portage Snow Removal Program

The City of Portage operates a comprehensive snow removal program each winter to ensure the maximum degree of safety to the motoring public. As early as 3:30 a.m., snowplow trucks are at work plowing and treating icy streets with sand and salt. In order to maximize benefits to the citizen's of Portage, streets are prioritized for snowplowing operations according to how heavy the streets are traveled in the following manner:

PRIORITY I:	All major streets (examples include South Westnedge Avenue, Oakland Drive, Milham Avenue, Kilgore Road, Shaver Road, Lovers Lane, etc.)
PRIORITY II:	All primary "feeder" streets leading into various residential neighborhoods, including access streets to all schools.
PRIORITY III:	All interior neighborhood streets.
PRIORITY IV:	Cul-de-sac and dead end streets.

There are 219 miles of city streets to plow in Portage, and the plow trucks normally travel through heavy snow at speeds of only 15 to 25 mph. During snow events, every effort is made to keep Priority I and II streets clear. In most circumstances, the snowplow operators can complete all Priority I and II streets within six hours. However, this is dependent on the intensity of the winter storm. Once the major roads are clear, the operators begin clearing Priority III and IV streets, usually requiring an additional ten hours. De-icing materials are applied as needed throughout the duration of a snow event, with major

streets, bridges, intersections, hills and curves receiving priority attention.

To improve the safety and efficiency of snow plowing operations, residents are reminded of the following:

- ◆ It is very dangerous for children to play in roadside snow piles – the snowplow operators may not see them and the force of the snow coming off the plow blade may injure them. (See related article below.)
- ◆ City ordinance (Chapter 78, Article 1, Section 78-2) prohibits the parking of vehicles on city streets between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. from October 15 to April 15. (See related article below.)
- ◆ City ordinance (Chapter 66, Article 1, Section 66-2) prohibits the placement of basketball stands in the city right-of-way.
- ◆ The placement of trash and recycling containers on the curb – not in the roadway – during trash and recycling collection days is encouraged.

Your assistance will improve the safety and efficiency of snow plowing operations and reduce the potential for damage to snowplow trucks and private property. The snow removal program is designed to keep city streets clear and safe in the most efficient manner possible. Questions about snow removal operations should be directed to the Streets & Equipment Department at 329-4444.

## Snowplows & Winter Safety

Children love to play on snow banks and build tunnels in the mounds of snow piled high along side city streets. It sounds fun, doesn't it? It is also very dangerous.

Keep in mind that the vision of a snowplow operator is limited as trucks have a front plow that is seven feet tall. It is extremely difficult for the operator to see children who might be playing along side the street. Snowplow trucks are 28 feet long and 15 feet tall, weigh over 40,000 pounds and have 250 horsepower (an engine that could pull three train cars).

Teach your children to never build a fort or tunnel in a mound of snow along the edge of street or in a cul-de-sac. Other safety tips for children who walk to and from school or play near the street include:

- ◆ Always wear bright colored clothing.
- ◆ Stand back away from the road when snowplow trucks are approaching.
- ◆ Be aware that the snowplow operators cannot always see you.



## Portage Police Remind Residents to Keep City Streets Clear for Snow Plowing Operations

With the onset of the snow season approaching, the Portage Police Department reminds Portage residents that city ordinance (Chapter 78, Article 1, Section 78-2) prohibits the parking of vehicles on city streets between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. from October 15 to April 15. This will aid in safe and efficient snow plowing operations, eliminating the chance of damage to snowplow trucks and vehicles parked on city streets. Vehicles that remain parked on a city street during the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. may be ticketed for violation of the ordinance - the cost of which is \$45.00 plus a civil infraction. Your assistance to help make this a safe snow plowing season will be greatly appreciated. If you have questions about this city ordinance, please contact the Portage Police Department at 329-4567.