University of Toronto Mississauga

Snow and Ice Removal Strategy

Objectives

The objectives of the Snow and Ice Removal Strategy is to define snow removal priorities, procedures and communicate how the Grounds group (Grounds), as part of the Facilities Management and Planning (FMP) Department, will organize and execute snow and ice removal during weather events to minimize hazards for the safety of our campus community.

Grounds staff intend always to meet or exceed the City of Mississauga Winter Maintenance Standards.

Monitoring

Conditions are monitored 24 hours a day by Grounds senior staff and Campus Safety. Weather forecasts from Environment Canada are utilized as a proactive and ongoing approach for the decision-making process.

Occasionally, when staff are not on campus, Grounds may contact the Campus Safety office to inquire about the weather conditions on campus in order to assist with accurate and appropriate evaluation of site-specific conditions.

Staff Schedules

Grounds staff are on campus seven days a week, Monday to Friday 6 am to 8:30 pm and Saturdays and Sundays 8 am to 4:30 pm. Staff schedules and hours are adjusted based on weather conditions and current campus conditions to provide 24-hour coverage, if necessary. During statutory holidays and the holiday closure Grounds is available on a call-in basis.

Available staff and equipment are scheduled, assigned, and reassigned to ensure winter hazards are mitigated as conditions dictate.

Unexpected Weather Events

When unexpected snow or icy conditions occur, Campus Safety will report current campus conditions to the Grounds Supervisor, or designate, who will schedule Grounds Staff to begin removal process/work.

Procedures

Grounds follows a detailed process for systematic snow and ice removal:

- When surfaces become icy, salting begins.
- When depth of snow on surfaces exceeds 5 cm, plowing begins.
During an extreme weather event, it may be necessary to continually return higher priority areas while other areas with lower on the priority list may have to wait for the event to subside.

Senior Grounds staff members keep a snow log, detailing the date, staff present, staff start times, vehicle assignments and weather conditions to assist with debriefing following a weather event.

**Timelines**

Snow is cleared in the most proactive way possible as soon as possible after the weather event (and during a continuous weather event which produces large accumulations of snow/ice). Most clearing is to be completed 24 hours after a weather event has ended.

During extreme weather events (including large amounts of snow, continuous or extended periods of snowfall, heavy snow, drifting snow and ice accumulations) the ability to progress through the priority areas will be reduced.

**Priorities**

Grounds will make every effort to ensure that all fire routes and barrier-free pathways and entrances remain open and de-iced throughout the snow/ice removal period. These areas are always the first priority. Once priority areas are complete, a final snow clearing from curb to curb will occur with consideration of a number of factors including: current campus conditions, campus status (open/closed), projected weather forecasts, etc.

**Priority #1**

- **Campus roadways:**
  - Outer Circle Road
  - Inner Circle Road
  - Middle Road
  - Principal’s Road
  - Residence Road
  - The Collegeway
  - 5 Minute Walk

- **Parking ramps:**
  - P4, P8, P9, CCT

- **Barrier-free building entrances:**
  - Academic Annex: Main
o Alumni House: Rear
o Culture, Communication & Technology: Main, Link, Connection with DV
o Deerfield Hall: Main, Field side
o Early Learning Centre: Main
o Erindale Studio Theatre: Main
o Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre: Main
o Health Science Complex: Main, Rear
o Instructional Centre: Main, North, South
o Maanjiwe nendamowinan: Main, Field side, Lot #1
o Recreation, Athletics and Wellness: Main
o Research Greenhouse: Main
o Student Centre: 5 Minute Walk side, Academic Annex side
o William G. Davis: Main, End of 5 Minute Walk, Connection with CCT
o Erindale Hall: Main, Rear x 2
o Oscar Peterson Hall: Main, Rear
o Roy Ivor Hall: Main

• Barrier-free parking spaces – All locations

• Emergency exits

Priority #2
• Secondary pathways/sidewalks – heavily used
• Secondary stairs/stairwells
• Parking lots:
  o Alumni House , P1, P3, P4 (lower), P5 (front), P6, P7, P8 (lower), P9, P10

Priority #3
• Convenience pathways/sidewalks – lightly used
• P11, P4 (upper), P8 (upper), Lislehurst – nature trail parking spaces
Background

Grounds begins preparations for snow removal in late October/early November, servicing trucks, plows and equipment, ordering de-icing materials and planning routes and schedules in order to be prepared for the first snow of the season:

- Equipment service/preparations – plows, salters, vehicles
- Place and fill salt boxes across campus
- Material orders – bulk road salt, non-chloride containing de-icing materials, etc.
- Closing off of areas that do not receive winter maintenance

Contact Us

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