

Snow Warriors Fact Sheet

For Pride Centers, Neighborhood Liaisons, Police and Firefighters

- ◆ Snow routes priorities (Residents can call 311 or 645-3111 to find out where their street falls in the below priorities—NOTE: *311 does **not** take requests to plow residential streets*—311 can tell residents where their street falls within the below priority levels)
 - Priority 1: Freeway system (Portions of State routes 315, 33 and 104. ODOT is responsible for I-71, I-70, I-670 and I-270)
 - Priority 2: Arterial streets (Examples: High Street, Broad Street, Morse Road)
 - Priority 3: Collector residential streets (Examples: Oakland Park Avenue, Courtright Road, Hague Avenue, Weber Road)
 - Priority 4: Residential streets (*Plowed only after four inches of snow are on the ground **and** after freeways, arterials and collector residential streets have been plowed and treated*)

- ◆ Why does City plow and treat Freeway system, Arterials and Collector Residential streets first before residential streets?
 - Freeways, Arterials and Collector Residentials have higher speeds and higher volumes of traffic, and greater chances of accidents occurring

- ◆ Columbus' Snow Warriors are responsible for 227 square miles, much more than their counterparts in other Ohio cities:
 - Cleveland: 82 square miles
 - Toledo: 80 square miles
 - Cincinnati: 79 square miles
 - Dayton: 57 square miles

- ◆ Columbus' Snow Warriors are responsible for 2,053 linear miles of roadway, approximately the distance between Columbus and Las Vegas.

- ◆ Residents also have a role during and after snow storms:
 - Drive with extra care and leave additional distance between you and the vehicle in front of you
 - Maintain a distance of no less than 100 feet behind a snow plow truck
 - Avoid passing snow plow trucks because the drivers cannot always see a smaller car about to pass
 - Follow snow emergency laws when a snow emergency is declared
 - When possible, park vehicles in driveways or parking lots and off streets to give plow trucks room to plow
 - Check on senior citizens, shut-ins and other neighbors with mobility impairments
 - Whether a home or business, shovel your sidewalk, driveway apron and any wheelchair ramps in front of your home or business
 - Pile snow in yards. Never shovel snow into the street or sidewalks
 - Apply salt, sand or cat litter to icy steps and paths
 - When the snow begins to melt, clear snow from in front of catch basins by shoveling the snow into storm sewers. The heat of the storm sewer will melt the snow and allow other melting snow and ice to flow freely into storm sewers

- ◆ Every winter storm is different, so strategy in responding to a specific storm may vary from that of another storm
- ◆ Columbus' Snow Warriors use different treatments for streets depending on the conditions:
 - Salt, Calcium Chloride: Melt snow and ice under most conditions. *Salt loses its effectiveness in extremely low temperatures, especially on lightly-traveled streets.*
 - Brine (a mix of salt and water): Pavement is pre-treated with brine prior to a storm. Brine helps prevent snow and ice from bonding to pavement.
 - Rock Salt or Salt mixed with Calcium Chloride: Applied to road with highest traffic volumes and highest speeds during and after snow falls
- ◆ Columbus Snow Warriors have other job responsibilities including, but not limited to:
 - Patching potholes
 - Street cleaning
 - Alley surfacing treatment
 - Mowing
 - Underpass cleaning
 - Graffiti removal