



## Minor and Major Storms

**Minor Storms.** An ice or snow storm of **four (4) inches or less** on the paved roadway surfaces is considered a Minor Storm. A storm of a minor nature is usually handled solely by Department personnel and equipment of the County Highways Division under Level 1 and II Operations. *For snowfalls of less than two inches (2"), depending on temperature and weather forecast, only emergency salt routes may be treated.*

Level I Operations. For a **1-4" Snowfall or for Freezing Rain / Ice and less than 4" of Snow:**



- If up to 2", Priority 1 Routes can be treated (not plowed within **3-5 hours** after the storm ends and Priority 2 and 3 Secondary Residential Routes within **12 hours**.
- For the County Airport, the FAA advisory circulars state that the runway **will be closed** for aircraft use if it has more than ½ inch of slush or 2 inches of dry snow.
- Follow "bare pavement" with "curb to curb", cul-de-sac, and shoulder edge clearing as time and resources permit. All other services (i.e., Convenience Centers and STS Transit) should operate on time.

Level II Operations. If **2-4" is expected:**

- Priority 1 Routes can be plowed/treated in **8-10 hours**. Priority 2 and 3 Routes begins after Priority 1 Routes are completed with streets made "passable" between **16-20 hours** after the storm ends.
- For the County Airport, the FAA advisory circulars state that the runway **will be closed** for aircraft use if it has more than ½ inch of slush or 2 inches of dry snow.
- Follow "bare pavement" with "curb to curb", cul-de-sac, and shoulder edge clearing as time and resources permit. All other services (i.e., Convenience Centers and STS Transit) should operate on time.



**Major Storms.** Snow or ice storms that develop an accumulation of **more than four (4) inches** on the paved roadway surfaces are considered Major Storms and are handled under Level III – Level V Operations. All contractors' equipment in all Road Service Areas should be considered for mobilization at this time. This action will require the Director of Public Works & Transportation / Manager of County Highways approval and will vary based on an assessment of current conditions, weather forecast and budgetary constraints.

**Level III Operations.** For a **4-8" snowfall**, Priority 1 Routes are continuously plowed. Thru lanes are plowed to bare pavement up to **12 hours** after the end of the storm. Plowing of Priority 2 and 3 Routes takes up to **12 hours** to plow once with streets made "passable" between **24-36 hours** after the storm ends.

For an **8-12" snowfall**, Priority 1 Routes are continuously plowed. Thru lanes are plowed to bare pavement up to **24 hours** after the end of the storm. Plowing of Priority 2 and 3 Routes takes up to **24 hours** to plow once with streets made "passable" (but not cleared to bare pavement) up to **48 hours** later.

**Level IV Operations.** For a **12-18" snowfall**, Priority 1 Routes are continuously plowed. Thru lanes are plowed to bare pavement up to **24-36** hours after the end of the storm. Expect narrowed and/or blocked lanes and snow packed residential streets due to accumulations. Plowing of Priority 2 and 3 Routes takes up to **36-48** hours to plow once with at least one (1) lane made "passable" between **2-3 days** later.

**Level V Operations.** For an **18-24" snowfall**, Priority 1 Routes are continuously plowed. Thru lanes are plowed to bare pavement up to **36-48** hours after the end of the storm. Expect narrowed and/or blocked lanes due to accumulations. Plowing of Priority 2 and 3 Routes takes up to **48-60** hours to plow once with at least one (1) lane made "passable" between **2-3 days** later.

Follow "bare pavement" with "curb to curb", cul-de-sac, and shoulder edge clearing as time and resources permit.



**Snow Packed Roads.** Residents are advised that residential roadways may be plowed, but are not always treated with road salt. As such, they may be maintained at the snow packed level. Snow packed means that the snow is compacted to the road's surface by vehicle traffic and plowing. Without salt, these roads will not get down to bare pavement until the snow melts. As the snow melts, the snow surface will break apart into smaller sections. In extreme conditions these roads are re-plowed, but the majority of the time they are left to naturally melt away.