

Campus Snow/Ice Removal Mission Statement:

The mission of Facilities Services is to provide effective snow and ice control with the personnel and equipment available, in an effort to maintain emergency access to all campus buildings, provide safe pedestrian walkways to all buildings and parking lots, and to provide adequate parking areas for students, staff, and visitors.

Snow Removal Procedure:

The following procedures ensures that snow and ice is removed from campus roadways, sidewalks, and parking lots in a prioritized, timely manner.

Personnel and Equipment:

Snow will be removed by the Grounds Department of Facilities Services, when it reaches a depth of 1" on sidewalks, 3" on roads, and 3" in parking lots. Weather conditions are monitored on a regular basis by the Grounds Supervisor to predetermine the personnel and equipment needed to combat any upcoming storm. Any adjustments to the equipment and personnel are made during the winter storm to effectively manage the conditions. The personnel consists of 1 Full- time grounds keeper and approximately 6 to 8 part time student workers. Grounds is not a 24 hour operation and only has one crew centered on a single shift for snow removal. The only ice melt allowed on campus is an environmentally safe pellet that has magnesium acetate or sand. Any Ice melt with calcium or magnesium chloride is not allowed due to adverse effects it has on the buildings, sidewalks, and lawns. Any damage to the property due to the use of any other type of ice melt that contains harsh chemicals that are listed above will be fined.

Operations:

The Grounds crew arrives at 4 a.m. to begin removal process during inclement weather. Majority of the snow removal for the streets, parking lots, and sidewalks will be done by rotary brooms and plows to remove the maximum amount of snow that is not bonded to the surface. It is impossible to prevent the formation of ice on all surfaces. Ice melt helps diminish the length of time the ice stays bonded. The rest of the areas where the machines are unable to go will be shoveled by hand and ice melt or sand will be placed. If the area that is affected is deemed unsafe, that area will be secured with caution tape and signs posted. The custodial crew designated for each building during their working shift, will attend to the entryways up to 10 feet and spread ice melt as needed. MSU-Northern contracts out to other contractors during extremely heavy snow fall. All parking lots adjacent to the Residence Life buildings will need to be cleared of vehicles, trailers, and recreational vehicles in order for the Grounds crew to properly clear the lots and sidewalks of snow and ice. Residence Life Department is responsible for scheduling the vehicles to be evacuated in order to facilitate snow removal in occupied residential lots. Listed below are the areas which Grounds will prioritize:

- Priority 1
 - Campus parking lots, Routes, access ramps, and parking stalls for the disabled
 - Clear and sand primary pedestrian sidewalk routes
 - Sanding of street intersections
 - Sloping sidewalks
 - Street plowing (snowfall > 3")
 - Major building entryways
 - Academic /Commuter Lots

- Priority 2
 - Clear and sand Secondary central campus sidewalks
 - Secondary building entryways
 - Residential Lots-Dependent on occupancy, Resident Life Department needs to coordinate vehicle removal in the Residential Lots
 - Food Service dock area

- Priority 3
 - Peripheral campus sidewalks
 - All other Docks and Service areas
 - Athletic Playing Fields

In Conclusion:

Montana State University-Northern exceeds what would be considered reasonable effort to maintain the safety during the winter months on the campus. Remember due to the winter climates in Montana it is impossible to maintain total safe conditions on all of the sidewalks, streets, and parking lots at all times. Most hazards can only be to some extent alleviated. It is everyone's responsibility to exercise caution and common sense, regardless of the means of commuting throughout campus property to minimize the risk for all.