

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed January 6, 2022

Winter storm affects City roads, services, facilities

Alert issued to residents registered for emergency alert

Summary

Nanaimo received up to 30 cm of snow overnight, which has impacted City roads, curbside collection services and recreation facilities. On the roads, City crews have been able to clear snow from priority 1 routes such as main roads and emergency routes and are now focusing on priority 2 and 3 routes such as secondary roads. Currently, all City snow clearing trucks are out along with backhoes to clear the compact snow and ice from secondary roads, culs-de-sac and dead ends that accumulated from last week's storms. The public is encouraged to stay off the roads to help give plows time to clear the roads. If travel is required, be prepared for winter driving conditions (slow down, leave extra room, watch for pedestrians) and have a winter car emergency kit.

City recreation facilities are closed for the day and all recreation programs and facility rentals have been cancelled. Recreation patrons, rental groups and program registrants can stay up to date on the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture page at: www.nanaimo.ca/parks-recreation-culture

Garbage and recycling collection for January 6, 2022 has been cancelled. Due to the extended delays in resuming curbside collection service, the RDN is offering City of Nanaimo residents free drop-off of their curbside waste at the Regional Landfill in Cedar (1105 Cedar Rd). Residents using the free drop-off will need to provide identification and their address at the facility scale house. The free drop off will be available for affected areas until curbside service is fully restored. Please wait until road conditions are safe before taking garbage to the landfill.

An alert was issued this morning to residents registered for the City's emergency notification system, Voyent Alert! advising of the hazardous road conditions and recreation facility closures. In the event of other wide-scale impacts, another alert will be sent out. Residents can register for Voyent Alert! by following the instructions at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/alerts.

Please help pedestrians travel through Nanaimo safely. Property owners and tenants (residential and businesses) are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of their property. For driver safety and plow efficiency, please avoid shovelling snow onto the streets.

Snow is expected to turn into rain of up to 20 mm later today, which will further affect the roads and create the potential for localized flooding. City crews are out clearing as many catch basins and drains as possible, but homeowners and businesses are asked to help prevent flooding by clearing ones in front of their properties. If flooding occurs, sand and sand bags for filling are available at the Public Works yard (bring a shovel and ties). If possible, please wait until road conditions are safe before visiting Public Works. To report flooding, please call Public Works 24-hour hotline at 250-758-5222.

The City of Nanaimo understands ongoing frustrations over the impacts to roads and City services and thanks all residents for their patience and community-mindedness in helping out others during this time.

Stay up to date with conditions on www.nanaimo.ca and on social media (@CityofNanaimo on Facebook and Twitter). For up-to-date information on public transit, follow @RDN_Transit on Twitter. Please also listen to local radio stations the Wave 102.3 or Wolf 106.9.

Strategic Link: Keeping our community safe is an important part of Livability and a responsibility of Governance Excellence.

Key Points

- Nanaimo's crews have been operating 24/7 and all available snow clearing equipment is on the roads. In addition, the City has acquired extra backhoes to clear compact snow and ice accumulated from last week's storms.
- City recreation facilities are closed and recreation programs are cancelled for Thursday, January 6, 2022.
- Garbage and recycling collection is cancelled for January 6, 2021. When the roads are safe to travel on, residents can drop off their curbside waste at the RDN landfill for free of charge until collection resumes to normal operations.
- An alert was sent out this morning through the City's emergency alert system, Voyent Alert! advising residents of hazardous road conditions and recreation facility closures.

Quotes

"Winter just keeps coming, Nanaimo and I know it is frustrating to not be able to go about your daily lives with ease. All available City resources have been out clearing roads and trails to try to get you back to normal. Thank you for your continued patience and help as we dig ourselves out...again."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- There are a few key routes that are owned and maintained by the Province rather than the City of Nanaimo. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure maintains Highway 19 (Nanaimo Parkway and Duke Point Highway), Highway 19A (Island Highway), Brechin Road and Stewart Avenue.
- Nanaimo is 91.3 square kilometres and has over 644 kms of roads, nearly 775 culs-de-sac, 453 kms of sidewalks, 103 kms of bicycle lanes, and 180 kms of trails.
- The City uses a three-tier priority route system for plowing that puts emergency routes first, and gives fire, police, and ambulance the best chance to respond quickly in emergency situations.

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