



SDOT Winter Weather Response Plan

Our Vision, Mission, Values, & Goals

Vision: Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation.

Mission: We're on a mission to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities.

Core Values & Goals:

Equity, Safety, Mobility, Sustainability, Livability, and Excellence.

Winter Weather Storm Readiness & Response Plan

Outline:

- Essential Functions and Expectations
- Pre-season preparation
- Winter storm response triggers
- Snow and ice routes and resources
- Emergency response
- Public information

2021-2022

WINTER WEATHER

Readiness and Response Plan



SDOT's Mission Essential Functions



- Maintain key arterial and waterway operations
- Mitigate hazards in the right of way (ROW)
- Issue permits authorizing use of the ROW
- Disseminate critical transportation information

Expectations

- Deliver state of the art response, achieving specified service levels within appropriate time frames
- Distribute timely information to the public
- Prioritize important transit streets
- Clear arterial streets
- Remove snow from curb ramps and bridge overpasses to emphasize equitable access and mobility
- Clear bike facilities on longer duration events

Sidewalks and driveways are property owners' responsibility



Pre-season Preparation

- Materials, equipment and facilities
 - Inventory and inspect prior to the winter season
 - Review routes and update map
- Staff training
 - Dry run each route
 - Conduct Driver Training
 - Host Inclement Weather Expectations and Equipment Orientation



Pre-season Preparation

- Interagency coordination
 - Year-round effort, including our time today
 - Training and cross training opportunities with Supervisors, Crew Chiefs and Drivers/Operators throughout the City
 - Refresh and orient new Dispatchers
 - Refresh Customer Care Center messaging
 - Close coordination with King County Metro
 - Optimize lessons from ongoing hybrid work environment



Winter Storm Response Triggers

- **Landslide:** NWS heavy rain advisory (2-3 inches in 24-hour period) during conditions exceeding the USGS landslide threshold index
- **Wind Storm:** NWS high wind advisory of sustained 25-39 mph winds or gusts to 57 mph
- **Snow and Ice Storm:** NWS winter weather advisory of freezing rain or snow in the Seattle urban area
- **Blizzard:** NWS issues a blizzard conditions warning for Seattle with wind gusts of 35 mph+ and 12 inches of snow or more

Snow & Ice Operations

- SDOT Response Operations Center is at Charles Street
- Maintenance Operations staffs Haller Lake, Charles Street, Sunny Jim and West Seattle locations
- Storm response staff work 12-hour shifts
- Transportation Operations Center staffed daily 24/7 in Seattle Municipal Tower
- SDOT Customer Care Service Center
- Public number 684-ROAD (7623)
- Charles Street Maintenance Operations Center 206 386-1218 (24/7)



Snow & Ice Routes

- Gold snow routes
 - Bare pavement all lanes within 12 hours of a lull in storm
- Emerald snow routes
 - Bare pavement one lane each direction within 12 hours of a lull in storm
- Plow only arterial streets
- Plow snow to the curb except at transit stops
- Inspect, engage, educate and enforce sidewalk regulations



Snow & Ice Response Materials

- Granular salt and liquid magnesium chloride
- Stockpiles at Charles St, Haller Lake, West Seattle, and 8th Ave S/S Forrest St, and under 99



Current Resources

Equipment & materials

- Heavy trucks plow & spreader
- Small trucks w/plow & spreader
- Small trucks w/plow only
- Motor patrol grader
- Front-end loaders
- Backhoes
- Street sweepers
- liquid magnesium chloride
- tons granular salt
- 4 stockpile locations

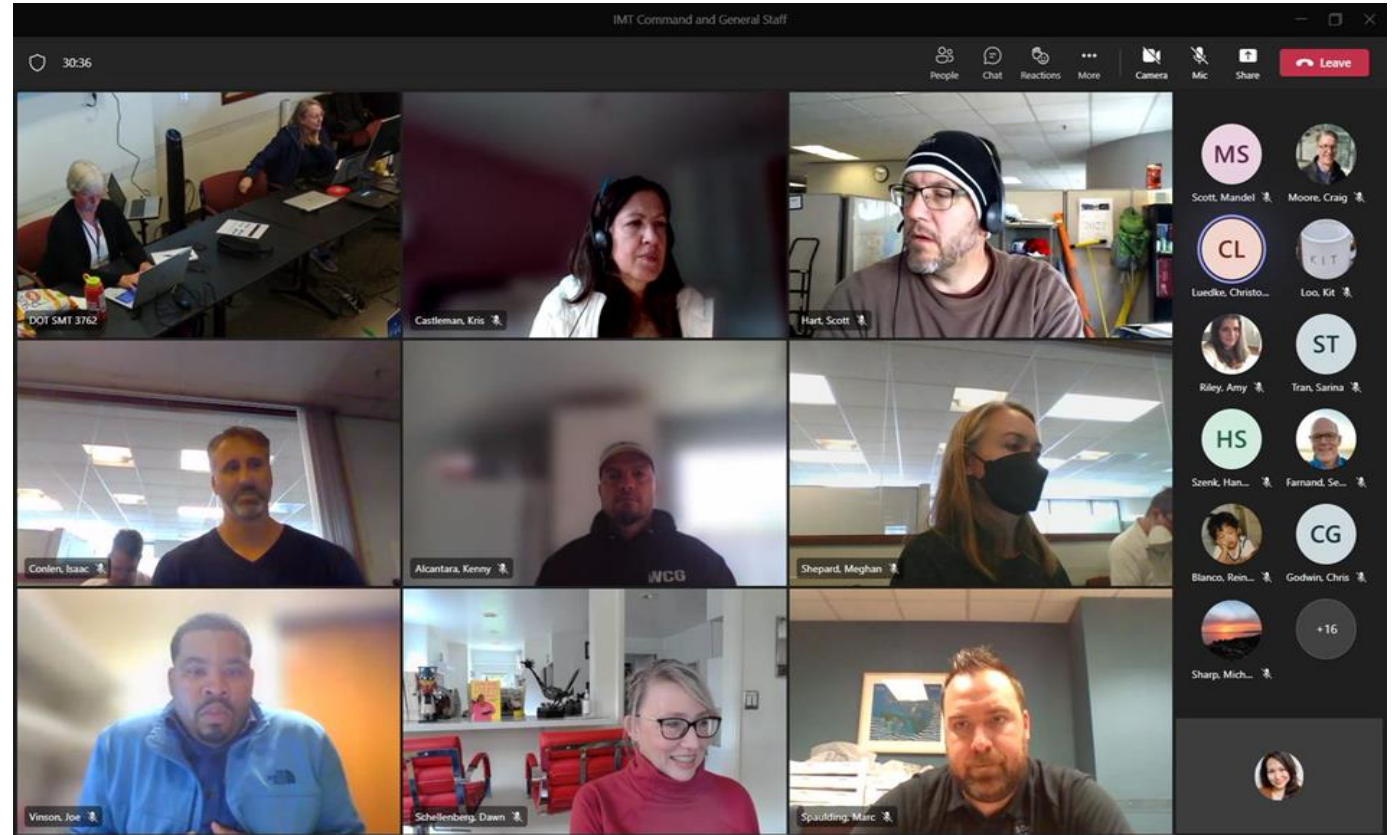
Staffing

- SDOT Maintenance Operations
 - Truck Drivers
 - Equipment Operators
 - Maintenance Laborers
- Seattle Public Utilities / Seattle Parks and Recreation driver loan
- Metro Maintenance Operations



Incident Command System for Response

- Two-week standby rotation using AlertSeattle
- Hybrid Department Operations
- Triggers for IMT/DOC activations
 - Weather forecast
 - Length/severity of weather event
 - Compounding factors
- IMT - EOC Interface



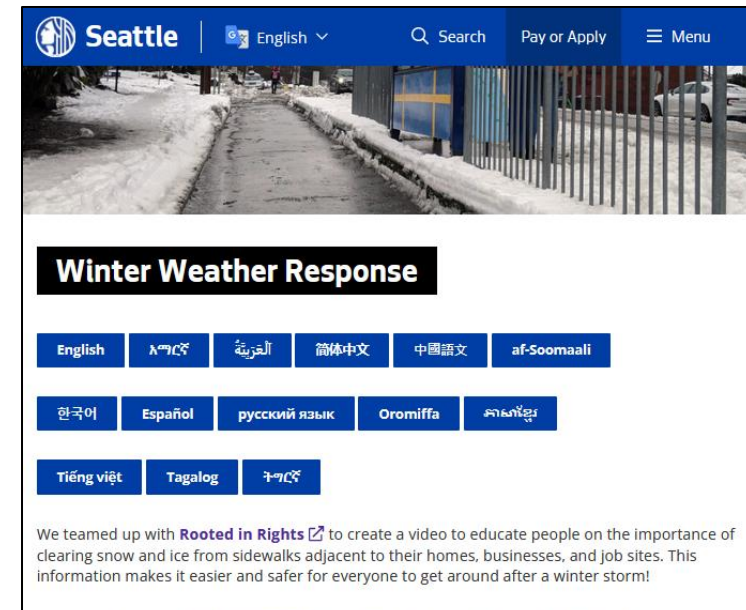
Transportation Operations Center

- Collect information using traffic cameras, sensors, SDOT and SPD dispatch, social media, and boots on the ground
- Assist with establishing detours and coordinating an interagency response
- Provide information to the public using Twitter, the Traveler Information Map, and Dynamic Message Signs



Public Information Overview

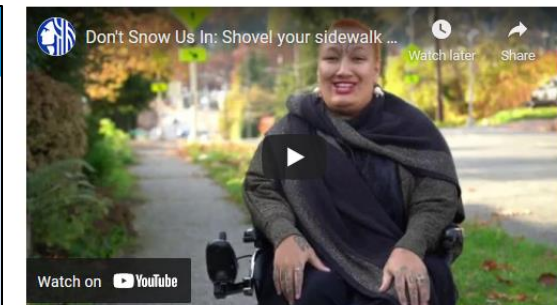
- Encourage **preparation** on website, blog, and social media streams.
- Participate in annual interagency regional winter weather conference.
- Work with community groups to distribute brochure in many languages.
- Translate public service announcements and distribute to multicultural news outlets.
- Promote video created with Rooted in Rights on importance of clearing sidewalks.



PREPARE FOR WINTER WEATHER

- Help your neighbors.
- Stay warm. Prepare for cold weather.
- Get snow removal supplies.
- Prepare your first aid & emergency supplies.
- Learn the plowed routes.
- Be aware of the weather forecast.

Learn more at seattle.gov/winterweather



Communications & Engagement

Public engagement goals:

- People clean leaves from gutters and maintain trees
- People know which streets are plowed, when, and why, and to drive as little as possible
- People shovel sidewalks in front of their properties
- People are prepared

Tactics:

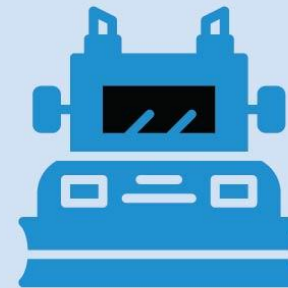
- Proactive / earned media
- Paid media ads
- Social media and blogs
- Videos
- Information distribution at major institutions

SAFETY TIPS & RESOURCES FOR WINTER WEATHER

Find out how to prepare and stay safe during snow and icy conditions.



Learn more at
seattle.gov/winterweather



SEE MAP OF ROADS WE'VE CLEARED

Find out how to prepare and stay safe during snow and icy conditions.



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Communications & Engagement

Ongoing Focus: Sidewalk Education Campaign

- Emphasize the public's responsibility to clear sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses

Key Messages

- We all have a responsibility to help keep our sidewalks clear
- It's not just the law, it's the right thing to do so everyone can travel safely during a snowstorm
- SDOT can't be everywhere. With over 2,400 miles of sidewalks, we depend on the public to do their part
- Talk to your neighbors and work together to create a neighborhood sidewalk clearing plan



Questions?

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www.seattle.gov/transportation/winterweather





From the entire SDOT Team:
Thank you!