



Encampment Cleanup Process Overview

Outreach – The Navigation Team, a specially trained group of outreach workers and Seattle Police officers, is going into unauthorized encampments throughout the city to help identify and implement individual solutions that break down barriers preventing unsheltered people from moving indoors. In many cases, this occurs before notice of an impending cleanup and after cleanups. Outreach always happens after a cleanup notice has been posted, and on the actual day(s) of the cleanup.

Reporting – The City learns of camping/unauthorized encampments in several ways, including:

- Through calls from the public to the Customer Service Bureau, reports filed using the City's online Service Request Form and through the Find It, Fix It mobile app.
- From the Seattle Police Department and other City staff out in the field who encounter people camping on City-owned property.

Assessment – Upon receiving reports, specially trained City staff visit the site to assess the situation.

Prioritization – Cleanups at unauthorized camping sites are prioritized based on health and safety issues observed. Criminal behavior and obstructing a facility (e.g., camping on the sidewalk) are considered as part of this prioritization.

Scheduling – Encampments are scheduled for removal based on their priority. If an encampment is abandoned but trash remains, Seattle Public Utilities' Illegal Dumping program addresses the site.

Notice – Sites scheduled for cleanup are posted at least 72 hours in advance with the date(s) and time of the cleanup.

Storage – City staff offer to store belongings for those on site during advance outreach and the day of the cleanup. On the day of the cleanup, staff collect, inventory, photograph and store personal belongings whether or not the individual is present, unless the items are clearly refuse, hazardous or evidence of a crime. Information on how to retrieve items from storage is handed to campers (if on site) and posted at the site. Items are stored for at least 70 days and the City will deliver belongings to the individual upon request.

Retrieve stored belongings:

Belongings may be recovered by calling 206-459-9949 and accurately describing the items.

Access shelter or social services:

Call 2-1-1.

Additional information at www.seattle.gov/homelessness.