



## Snow season is here!

After last weekend it's official -- snow season is here! Our Municipal Services Department is prepped and prepared for another season of winter weather.

So how does the City manage to keep roads cleared and safe when winter weather strikes?

When winter weather is in the forecast (snow, freezing rain, ice, etc.), the Municipal Services staff monitors conditions throughout the City.

City streets are classified into three levels for plowing: priorities, secondary and residential. Equipment is loaded and crews are placed on standby to respond when called.

Priorities are roadways that carry the highest volume of traffic -- think roads with three or four lanes that many people many travel to work or school. Secondaries are streets that connect those priority roadways to residential streets. Residentials are streets include cul-de-sacs and dead-ends.

All streets are evaluated for order of plowing based on these levels. Independence manages nearly 1,300 lane miles of roads, so we ask all residents for patience when it comes to plowing.

During a typical winter storm, it generally takes 12 to 24 hours to plow and treat all routes **after the snow stops**. High winds, extremely cold temperatures and additional snowfall may lengthen this time. When weather is nasty, remember to always take your time when driving in winter weather and stay off the roads when possible.

Snow removal shifts are staffed 24 hours during winter storm events and crews work 12-hour alternating shifts, so our crew members appreciate your understanding as they work through the city's streets. We'll introduce you to the members of our snow crews this year on our [social media channels](#) throughout the season, so be sure to keep a look out.

To request plowing, residents can call 816-325-SNOW or via the IndepNow app.

# Snow reminders



Using more de-icer might seem like it would make your job easier, but it could instead harm your driveway, sidewalks, plants and local streams. Remember that the ice melt you apply to the driveway can runoff into the street, down the stormwater drain and pollute our local lakes and streams.

Residents are asked to not park vehicles on the street when snow is forecast. If parking on the street is unavoidable, vehicles should be parked along the north side of east-west streets and along the west side of north-south streets.



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## How to make your home more energy efficient

Times of bitter cold and blistering heat are when many residents realize they might be losing air flow due to not having an energy efficient home. With a few tweaks or changes in habits, you can make your home more comfortable and save yourself some money too!

- Tend to your furnace. Even an older model of furnace can be efficient if its been serviced by a professional! In addition to servicing, make sure you are replacing your filter every three months. This helps with air flow and prolongs your furnace's life.
- Test your windows and doors. Without an airtight seal, you're wasting hot air. Check for drafts by holding a lit incense stick or candle around window frames and doors. If it flickers, you have a draft. Add caulking around

doorframes or replace weatherstripping on windows. In some cases, you might just need to add a door sweep.

- Clean large appliances. When the vent at the back of your refrigerator or dryer exhaust gets clogged with dust, the motors work harder, requiring more energy. Be sure to vacuum the areas a couple times a year.
- Improve your insulation. Your home's insulation is likely where you are losing most of your heat. The best place to target is your attic, including the floors and the rafters.

Interested in making your home energy efficient but can't afford it? The Home Weatherization Program is designed to assist low income families by making energy efficiency upgrades that assist in lowering the amount of energy used to heat your home. The program mostly focuses on improving building performance by limiting airleaks and improving insulation.

There is no cost to the recipient for participating in the program. For more information, [click here](#) or reach out to Truman Habitat for Humanity at 816-886-7374.

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## Employee spotlight

This month, we want to spotlight our staff at **Independence Power & Light**.

This month, Independence Power & Light earned the Smart Energy Provider designation for the American Public Power Association! This designation recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices in smart energy program structure, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources programs, environmental and sustainability initiatives and customer experience.

Thank you IPL staff for all you do!

Do you have a member of our team you want to recognize? Reply to this email with your story and they might be featured next month!

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## Happy Holidays!

With all this talk of snowy winter weather -- we want to wish you and your family safe and happy holiday season!

Want more information on community events, council meetings, programs, and local stories? Sign-up for the Independence CityScene Newsletter, Press releases, updates, and more to get the latest info in your inbox.



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