



CITY OF FORT DODGE

Snowfall Operations

WHY AND HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO



Snow Removal Priorities

1st - Hills, bridges & snow routes

2nd - Residential areas & cul-de-sacs*

3rd - Alleyways & parking lots

*Cul-de-sacs with cars parked in the street are too tight to get snow plows through. These require the use of the loaders.



Messenger photo by Chad Thompson



Messenger photo by Joe Sutter

Level 0

A snow event will take place at such a minimal rate that the road conditions will not be altered and no actions will be necessary.



Example: A snowfall of 1 inch will take place but road and ground temperatures are high enough that snow will melt, causing only wet roads.



Level 1

A snow event occurs in which little accumulation alters road conditions enough to require road treatment and/or plowing to be initiated.

Example: A snowfall of 1 to 2 inches occurs and, with the weather conditions, creates slick conditions on bridges and at intersections.



Action: A limited number of snow plow operators (2 to 4) clear the appropriate areas & apply product as needed to alleviate the slick/hazardous conditions.

Level 2

A snow event occurs in which accumulations and conditions cause road conditions to become challenging, requiring road treatment & plowing to be initiated City wide.

Example: A snowfall of 2 to 3 inches occurs, causing roads to be snow covered, making roads hazardous on a City wide spectrum.



Messenger photo by Hans Madsen

Action: 5 to 7 operators are engaged to plow and treat roads throughout town. There will be one operator per route and additional operators to clean downtown and cul-de-sacs.

Level 3

A snow event occurs in which moderate snowfall and conditions contribute to hazardous road conditions and in some cases, makes roads impassable.

Example: A snowfall of 3 to 5 inches occurs, causing roads to be snow covered City wide and unpassable for a majority of residents and emergency personnel.



Action: Fully staffed operations are deployed (10 to 12), consisting of two plow trucks per route with emphasis on emergency snow routes. A second fully staffed shift may be required based on the duration of the snow event.

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Level 4

A snow event occurs in which moderate to heavy snowfall creates hazardous road conditions City wide making roads impassable for residents and emergency personnel.

Example: A snowfall of 5 to 8 inches occurs, causing road conditions City wide to be snow covered and unpassable. This level would include poor conditions due to wind/ blizzard conditions causing significant drifting to occur.

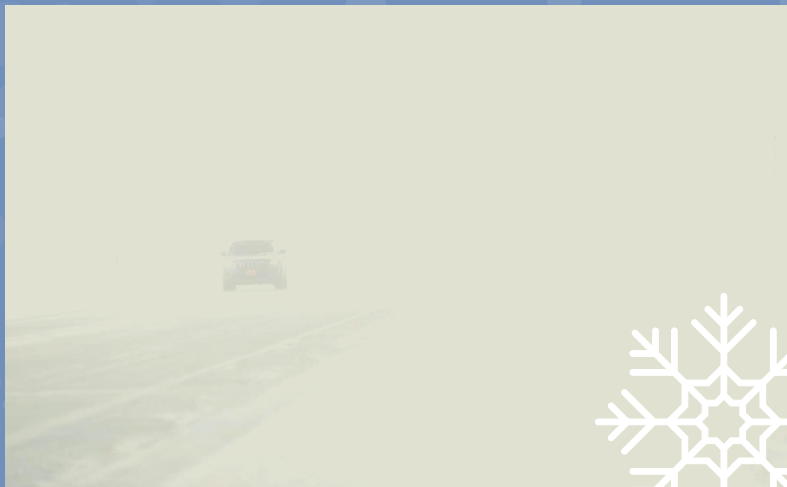


Action: Fully staffed operations are deployed (12 to 14), consisting of two plow trucks per route with major emphasis on snow routes. Loaders for downtown dead ends and cul-de-sacs are required and road graders are utilized for necessary areas. A second fully staffed shift will be required as well, bringing total operator numbers to 28 needed.

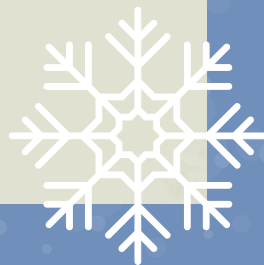
Level 5

A major snow event occurs in which heavy to extreme snow accumulations along with blizzard conditions create unsafe roads and travel not recommended City wide.

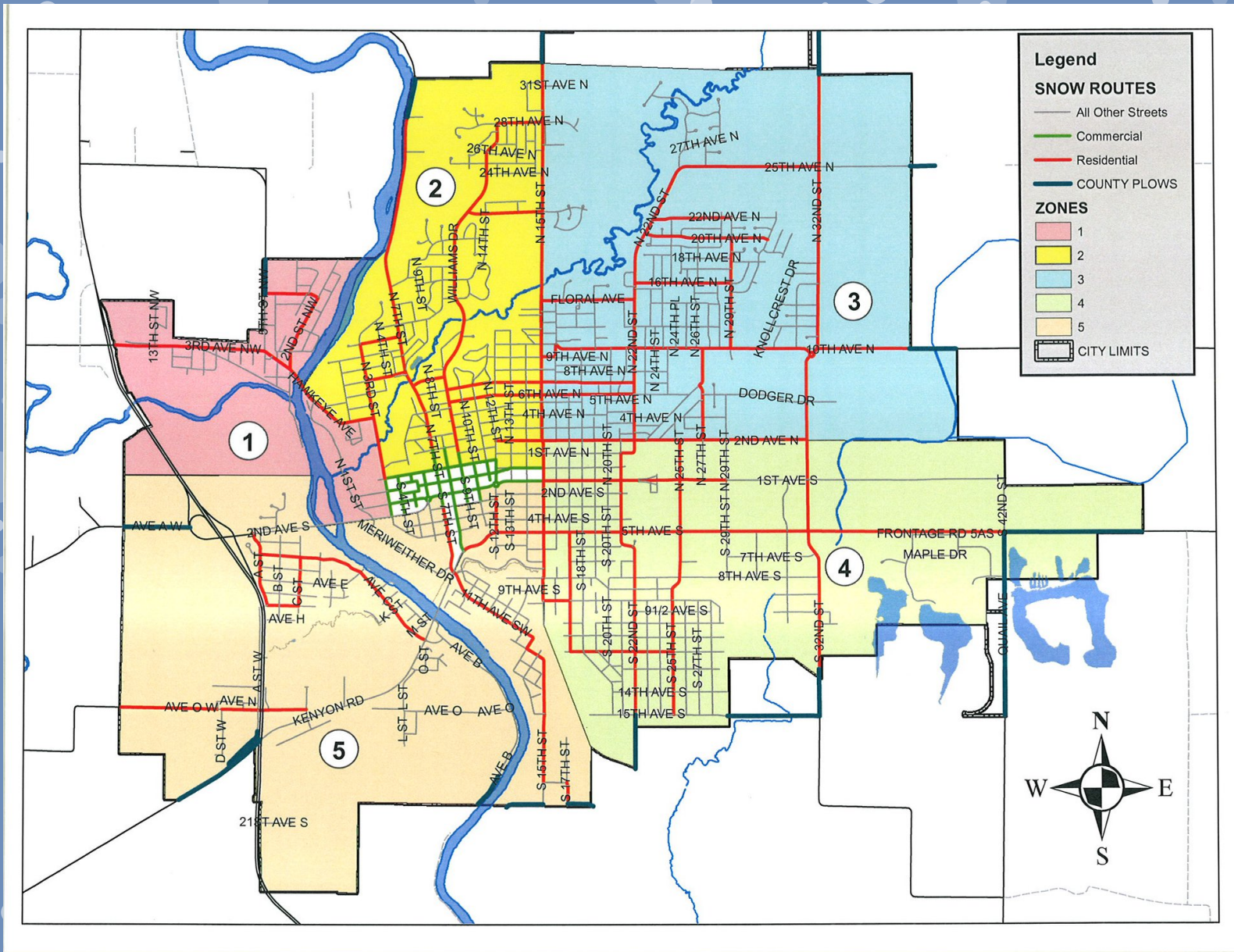
Example: A snowfall of 8 plus inches occurs accompanied with high winds in excess of 20 mph, creating white out conditions which in turn cause extremely dangerous travel City wide. Major drifting is expected and roads are impassible.



Messenger photo by Hans Madsen



Action: Fully staffed operations are deployed (14), consisting of two plow trucks per route with emphasis on keeping snow routes passible. Road graders and loaders will be utilized to keep all major roads open before pulling to clean up operations. Second shift will be required, implementing similar strategies, shifting to residential when able. Plow trucks could temporarily be pulled if white out conditions create unsafe snow operations. Snow operations will be ongoing for multiple days.



A parking prohibition automatically goes into effect when there has been an accumulation of 2 or more inches of snow. It remains in effect for 24 hours AFTER snow has finished falling.