

Winter Storm Policies & Procedures



Township of Brick
Ocean County, New Jersey

Updated January 2015

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General

The Brick Township Department of Public Works is responsible for snow removal and winter maintenance on 1,762 streets for a total of 780 lane miles, most of which are located in residential areas. These include 301 dead ends and 522 cul-de-sacs. This means that nearly 50% of township streets have either a dead end or cul-de-sac which increases the time it takes to clear streets. The township is not responsible for any private streets located within the township's borders.

The township is also not responsible for clearing snow from the major thoroughfares of the community. These include State Routes 70, 88 and 35 and County Roads including Mantoloking Road, Chambers Bridge Road, Cedar Bridge Avenue, Brick Boulevard, Hooper Avenue, Drum Point Road, Adamston Road, Princeton Avenue, Jordan Road, Midstreams Road, Van Zile Road, Lanes Mill Road, Sally Ike Road, Burnt Tavern Road, Burrsville Road, Jack Martin Boulevard, Herbertsville Road, Old Squan Road, Laurel Avenue, Maple Avenue, Forge Pond Road, Beaverson Boulevard, Cherry Quay Road and many more.

Before a Storm

The Brick Township Office of Emergency Management monitors weather reports from various sources and shares the information with personnel involved in the township's response to winter storms. That personnel meets, often several times, in the time period before an anticipated winter storm to discuss the storm's timeline as well as the township's response plan.

Once a plan is in place, each township official and employee begins their designated tasks. Public Works employees check all equipment to make sure it is operational and ready for the storm. Vendors are contacted and called in to supplement our fleet.

Public outreach begins. Citizens are informed of the weather via resources such as Facebook, Twitter, Nixle alerts, the Township website and the Township television station. In some cases, automated phone calls are made to households throughout the community. Citizens are informed of the township's snow ordinances and reminded to remove objects and vehicles from streets.

When a Storm Begins

Public Works crews are dispatched before or at the beginning of a storm to apply a liquid calcium brine to township streets. The purpose of the brine is to prevent ice from adhering to the road. It can be applied up to 24 hours before a snowfall. Their first objective is to treat intersections and sections of the township with hills. Keep in mind the brine is clear and hard to detect when it is applied.

As the Storm Continues

Plows are typically dispatched when snow accumulation exceeds 4 inches. The exact time snow plows are dispatched is determined by rate of snowfall and total anticipated snowfall. The township is divided into 52 pre-determined snow plow routes. There are 137 streets that have been designated as major arteries. These major arteries are made passable in their respective routes. After they have been done, plows concentrate on opening all streets curb to curb on their routes. Again, the township has 823 dead end streets and cul-de-sacs that adds to the time it takes to clear snow.

Emergency crews are stationed at firehouses in four sectors of the township. Each crew consists of loader, plow truck and chainsaw operators. Their primary objective is to make roads passable for emergency vehicles.

For a typical winter storm that requires plowing (4" to 9") of snow, it takes approximately 12-15 hours to clear streets.

Throughout any storm, the Township provides updates to citizens on BTV, Facebook, Twitter and the Township Website.

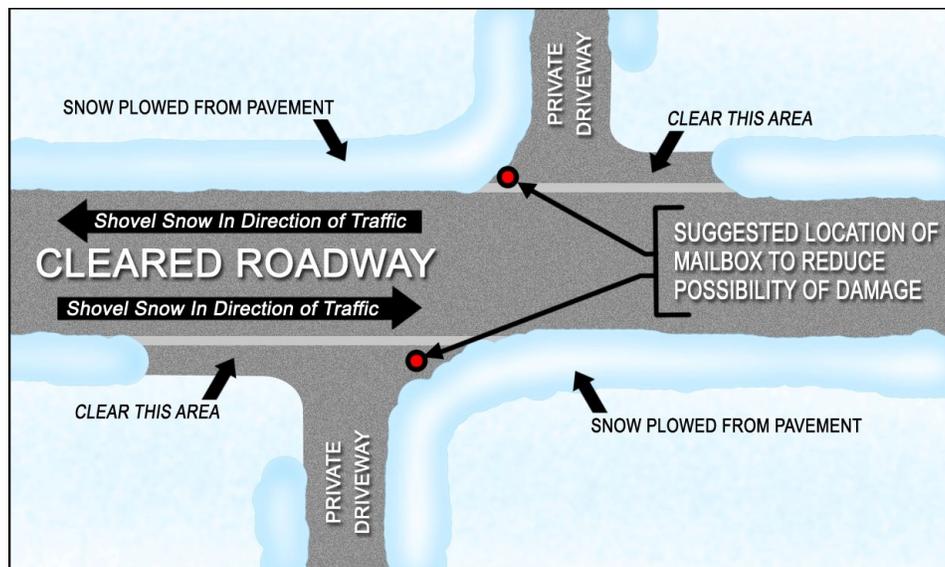
After the storm

After the storm, plows continue to address problem areas and push back corners. Trucks are sent out to apply brine to streets to continue breaking down any ice that may accumulate. Crews are also sent out to clear township owned sidewalks and paths.

How You Can Help

1. Do not drive unless absolutely necessary.
2. Remove all cars and objects (i.e., garbage cans, movable basketball hoops, etc) from the street prior to the start of the storm. Township Ordinance 288-53 prohibits vehicles from being parked on streets when snow accumulation covers streets or highways. If there is no room in your driveway, you can ask a neighbor to park in their property during the storm or use your lawn.

3. Do not shovel or blow your snow into the street. This is specifically prohibited by Township Ordinance 404-16.
4. Clear your sidewalk. It is the responsibility of every property owner to make sure that snow and ice is cleared from the sidewalk in front of your home and business. Township Ordinance 404-15 states that snow and ice be removed “within 24 hours of daylight after the snow shall have ceased falling or after the ice has formed”.
5. Do not be misled by plows driving with their plow up. There are many reasons this may happen; trucks may be heading for fuel, to another assigned area or may be from another agency.
6. **DO NOT CALL POLICE ABOUT SNOW ON YOUR STREET.** Direct all calls about snow plows to 732-451-4060. For major snow events, we open a Call Center where you will speak to an employee. Police should only be contacted in the event of an emergency.
7. Be Patient. Snow removal is an arduous and time consuming task. It is our mission to make the streets passable and as safe for motorists as we can in the shortest period of time. Every storm is different and poses different challenges.
8. If possible, wait until the streets have been completely plowed until you clear the end of your driveway. During plowing, it is inevitable that snow ends up in people’s driveways; there is no practical way to plow without this happening. Public Works will not come dig your driveway back out, nor is it their responsibility. If you choose to shovel prior to streets being cleared, we suggest you shovel in the manner described in the diagram below. You can minimize the amount of snow that ends up in your driveway by clearing an area next to your driveway in the direction of traffic. Snow from plows will end up in that area.



9. Follow storm updates on BTV, Facebook (www.facebook.com/bricktownpnjgovernment), Twitter (@TownshipofBrick) and the Township website (www.bricktownship.net). You can also sign up to receive Nixle alerts via text, email and phone from the Township and the Brick Township Police Department by texting your zip code to 888777 or by visiting Nixle.com.