

ECHO Q & A

Emergency and Community Health Outreach

Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV "Snow"

(Recording Show: @ TPT)

1. What exactly is a 'snow emergency?'

- A declaration of parking regulations that take effect after or during a significant snowfall.
- Allows the streets to be plowed completely
- Plowing starts at 9 p.m.
- So plows can clear the snow, parked cars need to be off the street.

2. Why does a city declare one?

- To make sure police cars, fire engines, ambulances and other emergency vehicles can get to every address in town.
- Allows people to park on certain streets while all city streets are plowed
- When cars are following the Snow Emergency rules, snowplow drivers can do the job more quickly.
- When cars are parked illegally, the cars need to be towed before the snowplows can come clear the snow.

For Minneapolis guest:

3. When does Minneapolis declare a snow emergency?

- When a significant amount of snowfall needs to be cleared from the streets
- No later than 6 p.m.

4. What happens after Minneapolis declares a snow emergency?

- The day a snow emergency is declared, parking is not allowed on snow emergency routes after 9 p.m. Snow Emergency routes are main streets that are designated with blue street name signs or a red Snow Emergency Route sign. While these streets are being plowed, you can park on either side of streets that are NOT Snow Emergency routes

- At 8 a.m. the next day, day two of the snow emergency begins. Do not park on the even side of non-snow emergency routes, and do not park on either side of parkways.
- The following day, at 8 a.m., day three of the snow emergency begins. Do not park on the odd side of non-snow emergency routes.
- You can park on a side of a street that has been fully plowed.

5. What exactly do you mean by “odd” and “even?”

- Determined by the last digit of a house number (show graphic)
- NOT related to the number of the street

6. How do you find out if a snow emergency has been declared for Minneapolis?

- Check local media
- Call 612-348-SNOW.
- Check the city of Minneapolis website – available in many languages
- Sign up for text message alerts and phone call alerts on the city of Minneapolis website
- Follow Minneapolis Snow Emergency on Facebook and Twitter

7. What happens if you don’t follow the snow emergency rules?

- Your car could get ticketed and towed
- You can call 311, or (612) 673-3000 to find out if your car was towed by the city.
- You will have to pay a ticket and a towing charge, and possibly a storage fee to get your car back
- The towing and ticket charges are more than \$150.

For St. Paul guest

8. When does St. Paul declare a snow emergency?

- Usually after a 3-inch snowfall, or accumulations of 3 inches
- By 3 p.m. the day the snow emergency will begin

9. How do you find out if a snow emergency has been declared for St. Paul?

- Check local media, including cable channel 18
- Check St. Paul’s Web page – available in many languages
- Follow the city of St. Paul or St. Paul Public Works on Twitter
- Call (651) 266-7569 (PLOW)
- Sign up to get a text message alert

10. What happens after St. Paul declares a snow emergency?

- Starting at 9 p.m., don't park on streets that say "Night Plow Route" or "Night Plow Route This Side Of Street" until they've been plowed to the curb
- Call the city if you're unsure if your street has been completely plowed

11. Can you leave your car on the non-snow emergency streets the next day?

- No. During the day, don't park on the non-posted routes until they have been plowed to the curb.
- Those streets do not have red snow emergency signs
- During the day, you can park on a night plow routes that has been plowed to the curb.

12. What happens if you don't move your car when the snow emergency takes effect?

- Your car could get tagged or towed
- If you live north of I-94, your car will be taken to the impound lot across from the State Fairgrounds.
- If you live south of I-94, your car will be taken to the impound lot on Barge Channel Road—unless it's full. Call first.
- You will have to pay a ticket and a towing charge, and possibly a storage fee

For both guests

13. What's the best advice for people who park on the street?

- Stay informed.
- When it snows, check to see if a Snow Emergency is declared.
- If you're leaving town during the winter and have a car parked in the street, leave your keys with a friend or neighbor so they can move your car if there is a Snow Emergency.

14. What do you think is the best way to stay informed?

- Go to your city's website
- Call the phone hotline
- Watch the local media

15. Who's responsible for making sure I know the parking rules?

- You are
- When there's snow, use one of the many ways to stay informed
- Help your neighbors/elders/seniors stay informed