

Importance of Snow Removal

January 31, 2012

(Livingston, NJ) – We have been very lucky so far with a mild winter, but snow fall is inevitable and the question of snow removal becomes a priority in keeping the walkways clear and safe for pedestrians. Township ordinances require that homeowners clear sidewalks outside their property of snow and ice within 12 hours after the end of a snowfall or ice storm. If homeowners are unable to clear their own property then it is recommended that they contact a landscaping or snow removal service company. Residents are reminded that non-compliance of this ordinance may result in a fine of \$75.

“We must all work together as a community,” said Mike Anello, Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent. “Please do not shovel, blow, or push snow from driveways or sidewalks into roadways. This practice is extremely dangerous as well as illegal, and it can leave the homeowner open to liability if an accident occurs because of this practice. Snow must be kept within the homeowner’s property limits.”

“When snow is thrown back into the street after DPW has plowed the streets it raises the cost for Livingston residents in overtime because it forces DPW to have to go back and redo street,” explained Anello. “This also prevents us from clearing up the snow in a timely manner, and stops staff from working on other jobs that require their attention.”

In addition, it is vitally important that ALL vehicles be removed from any road or street that has an accumulation of one inch or more of snow, until 24 hours after the storm has passed or until the roadway is cleared, to allow the access for plowing the streets. Township employees work in extreme conditions in order to keep residents safe. That is why any vehicles in violation of this ordinance may be towed and impounded on the authority of the Chief of Police or the DPW Superintendent.

Residents are reminded that if they live near a fire hydrant which becomes covered with snow, they must remove as much snow as possible around it to allow the fire department to gain access in an emergency. “There are 1500 hydrants in town, and it would be impossible for the DPW employees to shovel them all,” Anello explained. “Which is why the Township appreciates resident’s assistance in this matter. We also request that residents remove trashcans from the road or near curb areas, and please do not leave basketball backstops at curb areas.”

For more information about Livingston Emergency Management, visit the Township website: www.livingstonnj.org. Click on Emergency Management in the left hand column. Or contact the Snow and Ice Removal Hotline at 973-535-7931 or Email: towngarage@livingstonnj.org.

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