



Snow Plowing Priorities

The City of Escanaba Department of Public Works is responsible for plowing, ice control and hauling snow on our streets and alleys. In the City we have approximately 83 miles of paved street, 18 miles of alleyways and 8 miles of non-motorized trails that we are responsible for. We also have 9 facilities that require snow removal and clearing.

Snow plows are sent out when snow or ice accumulation creates slippery road conditions. Generally speaking, the City of Escanaba has 10 pieces of snow removal equipment, staffed by 10 Public Work’s employees being operated during a typical snow storm. We also have a mechanic on hand to assist the operators and keep our snow fleet running.

In the City of Escanaba there is a priority ranking system that governs which streets are plowed first. This ranking system is based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. All streets in the City of Escanaba are categorized which determines their priority for clearing during snow plowing operations.

The first priority streets are “*Main Thoroughfares*” which are high volume streets which connect major sections of the City and provide access for emergency fire, police, schools and medical services. In the City of Escanaba, the following streets are designated Main Thoroughfares:

- Ludington Street
- Stephenson Avenue
- Washington Avenue
- Sheridan Road
- South/North 14th Street
- South/North 10th Street
- 1st Avenue North – 4th to 10th Street
- 3rd Avenue North
- North 30th Street
- Danforth Road
- Lake Shore Drive
- Willow Creek Road
- 5th Avenue South/North
- 6th Avenue North
- Areas around Schools
- 14th Avenue South from Lake Shore Drive to South Lincoln Road

All other streets in Escanaba are considered to be our second priority which is generally referred to as “*Local Thoroughfares*”.

Once all the streets in the City are plowed, alley snow plowing takes place. Alley plowing is done as part of the regular plowing operations of the City of Escanaba. Depending on the severity of the storm, alley plowing could be delayed significantly as the major and local thoroughfares take priority. Every attempt is made to open all alleys as soon as possible for public use. Staffing and budgetary constraints may delay opening of an alley. Generally, all alleys will be plowed within 48 hours of a snow event, not including weekends. Smaller snow events may not require plowing of alleys.

In the event of a medical, fire or other public safety emergency, residents are asked to contact the Department of Public Safety by calling 911. The Department of Public Safety will alert snow and ice control resources immediately to provide emergency service support.

Residents can be assured that when snowfall accumulates, the Department of Public Works will do its best to plow all streets as soon as possible in order of priority, but severity of storms can greatly tax equipment and human resources.

As a resident and business owner you can help by keeping parked cars off streets during and after snow storms. Parked cars are an obstacle to efficient snow removal and also pose a hazard that plows must maneuver around. Also, residents and business owners are reminded that it is illegal to deposit snow from private property onto public street. Snow shoveled or plowed from driveways, parking lots or sidewalks cannot be piled on public streets or another's private property.