

January 12, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Public Works, Police Prep for Wintry Weather**

The City of Springfield Public Works Streets Division will mobilize a full crew at 6 p.m. to prepare city streets for the predicted precipitation. The City works together with Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) on area roadways. Weather reports predict frozen precipitation starting this evening and pavement temperatures to drop below freezing between 10 p.m. and midnight. After midnight, Public Works will likely bring in extra staff to monitor the streets and respond to slick calls, according to Ron Bailey, Streets Division interim superintendent.

Heavy snowfalls and other inclement weather events impact traffic tremendously, and even with all of Public Works' plowing crews working around the clock, not all streets can be cleared. Major roadways such as arterial and collector streets have priority and will be cleared and maintained as shown in the Springfield snow route map at <http://maps.springfieldmo.gov/publicviewer/>, and selecting Snow Routes under Public Safety in the Table of Contents.

In order to service the City's infrastructure in the most efficient way, it is important that Springfield's citizens do their part by being prepared.

### **Vehicle Control During Snow and Ice Events**

- On wet and icy surfaces, use vehicle controls as smoothly as possible. Do not over use the brake, gas or steering wheel and do not use them abruptly. Maintain a greater distance than normal to other vehicles.
- Always slow down well in advance when approaching a stop sign or signal-controlled intersection. Even with a green traffic signal, be prepared to stop.
- Be extremely careful when crossing over bridges and storm water culverts as moisture freezes quicker on these structures.
- When making a turn, wait for your car to straighten out and regain stability before accelerating.
- If you encounter a car crash with emergency responders at work, slow down and pay attention to the roadway as many crashes occur when motorists take their eyes off of the road to look at the crash.
- Winterize your vehicle by checking antifreeze and tire pressure. It is a good idea to carry a windshield de-icer (some washer fluid includes de-icer). Clear vehicle windows of snow and ice and allow the vehicle to warm up and allow for a clear view before moving the vehicle.
- If you live in a hilly area or have a steep driveway, park your vehicle on level ground. Vehicles can slide after being parked on an incline. Possibly carry some sand for traction with you for use when needed to improve traction.

## During Signal Outages

- Treat signalized intersections with a power outage as you would an All-Way-Stop.
- Slow down and prepare to stop when approaching ALL intersections, but especially when police officers are directing traffic or when Public Works and City Utilities repair crews and vehicles are in or near the roadway.

## Emergency Status

Springfield Police Department (SPD) will often go into emergency status during inclement weather events, due to a spike in the volume of calls. When that happens, motorists need to know what to do. SPD offers the following suggestions:

If you are in an accident and vehicles are drivable and there are no injuries:

### Exchange information

- Names
- Contact Information
- Phone and or Address
- Vehicle Information
- Make, model, license
- Insurance Information
- Insurance Company
- Policy Number

"If you don't have some way to write down information, you can always take a picture of the vehicle, vehicle license number and insurance card with a camera phone," says Lt. Ben King.

In the event of a hit-and-run situation, get as much information as possible:

- Description of vehicle
- License plate number
- Description of the driver
- If there were any other witnesses to the incident

King says you can also file a Walk-In Accident Report:

Springfield Police Department Headquarters  
321 E. Chestnut Expressway  
Seven days a week  
7 a.m. – 11 p.m.

South Station  
2620 W. Battlefield  
Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

"Remember, if the roads are bad, don't risk being in another accident by driving to the station immediately. Wait until the roads have cleared and make the report when you can get here safely," King said.

For more information, contact Cora Scott at 417-380-3352. Ron Bailey is available for interviews at the Springfield Public Works Service Center on Chestnut Expwy between 6 and 8 p.m. tonight.