



CITY OF MUSCATINE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 29, 2017

SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARED FOR CITY OF MUSCATINE

Winter storm could bring six inches or more of snow followed by bitter cold

MUSCATINE, Iowa – The Department of Public Works for the City of Muscatine has declared a “Snow Emergency” for the City of Muscatine from 12 p.m., Friday, December 29, through 11:59 p.m., Sunday, December 31.

MuscaBus began running their emergency snow routes at 10:30 a.m. Friday, December 29 (see attached [map](#)).

Representatives from City of Muscatine administration, Department of Public Works, Muscatine Fire Department, and the Muscatine Police Department met at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 29, to develop the game plan for this event.

“Every event is different,” Brian Stineman, Director of the Department of Public Works said. “We want to sure that all personnel are on the same page to deal with the event.”

During a snow emergency streets that normally allow parking on both sides of the street will be subject to “alternate side of the street” parking. On odd-numbered days of the month, parking is permitted only on the odd-numbered side of the street. Likewise, parking is permitted only on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered days.

For all streets where parking is allowed only on one side, if that side is on the even-numbered side of the street parking is allowed only on even-numbered days with no parking allowed on



CITY OF MUSCATINE PRESS RELEASE

odd-numbered days. Likewise, if the one side is on the odd-numbered side of the street parking is allowed only on odd-numbered days with no parking allowed on even-numbered days.

The transition time between the first and second day of a snow emergency is from 12-8 a.m. Enforcement of the second snow emergency day does not begin until 8 a.m.

The downtown Central Business District (bounded by Mulberry, Third, Mississippi Drive, and Pine streets) are not affected by the snow emergency parking regulations.

Declaring a snow emergency allows city crews to safely remove snow from streets by limiting parking. The declaration also defines which streets are cleared first.

There are five emergency plow snow routes throughout the city which are cleared first according to DPW Street Maintenance Supervisor Randy Howell.

“We have a map with the emergency routes in different colors which just is a guide for our crews to know which route they need to clear,” Howell said.

Howell said that city crews finished salting the streets by 3 p.m. and were beginning to tandem plow the emergency snow routes.

“We should be done with these routes by 6 p.m. tonight,” Howell said. “The night crew comes on at 7 p.m. and we will begin attacking the side streets.”

Usually a snow emergency is not declared for a snowfall event of six inches or less but the fact that an arctic air mass moves in behind the snowfall which could freeze any remaining snow and make it much more difficult to remove.



CITY OF MUSCATINE PRESS RELEASE

City officials stress that it is important for citizens to abide by the parking regulations to speed the removal of the snow.

For more information visit the [Snow & Ice Removal](#) page on the City of Muscatine web site. You can also call the Department of Public Works at 563-272-2506 for more information.

The [National Weather Service](#) has issued a Winter Storm Warning for Muscatine and the Muscatine area from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, December 29, 2017. Heavy snow is expected with accumulations of four to six inches. Difficult travel conditions are expected especially during the evening commute. Be prepared for significant reductions in visibility at times.

Bitterly cold conditions will return this weekend and into early next week with wind chills of 15 to around 35 below zero common. The arctic cold air mass is expected to remain over the area through next Thursday.



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