

# WINTER SNOW

## PARKING DURING SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS

Now that snow season is upon us, The City of Mt. Shasta Public Works Department and Police Department would like to remind everyone not to park on streets or alleys when snow conditions and removal operations exist.

The City of Mt. Shasta Municipal Code requires that vehicles must not be parked on streets during snow removal operations. Vehicles in violation will be towed and stored at the owner's expense and be subject to fines of \$100. The City provides "Snow Parking" areas for people that need a place to park during snow removal operations.

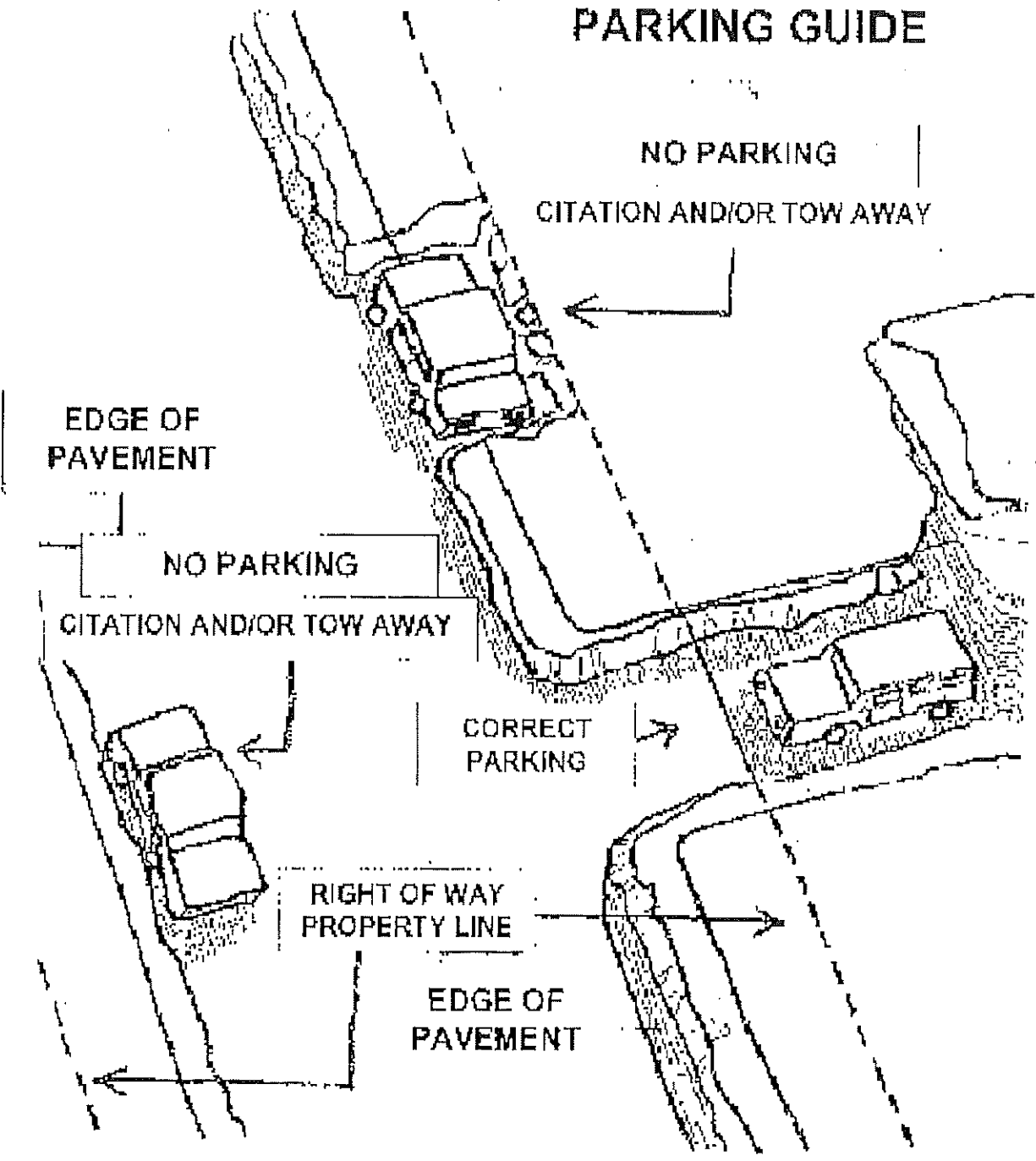
You can park in the following marked areas without being towed. These areas are not intended for long term storage or storage of disabled vehicles for the winter.

- Public Parking lot on West Lake Street, across from Paws & Shop Thrift Store **(110 West Lake Street)**
- Ivy Street between Mt. Shasta Blvd & Chestnut Street – **(South Side Only)**
- Youth Baseball Ballpark on Washington Drive/Everitt Memorial Hwy behind Sisson School – **(Park near snow parking signs)**
- Parking lot off Alma Street between N Mt Shasta Blvd and RR tracks

If you have any questions regarding snow parking and removal operations, Frequently Asked Questions are available at City Hall or the Police Department, or you may contact any of the following departments:

- City Hall – (530) 926-7510
- Public Works Department (530) 926-7526
- Police Department (530) 926-7540

# SNOW CONDITIONS PARKING GUIDE



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SNOW PLOWING IN THE CITY OF MT. SHASTA

During the winter months when the snow falls, the City receives many questions, concerns, and complaints in regard to snow removal procedures. The following Questions and Answers were compiled to address these inquiries.

1. **Why must snow be removed from the street?**  
So that traffic flow, such as emergency vehicles, mail carriers, commercial deliveries, and public commuting can continue.
2. **When is snow plowed on City streets?**  
We begin plowing when the snow level reaches a depth of four to six inches, or when it becomes necessary in the interest of public safety.
3. **How many snowplows are used by the City?**  
A total of eight machines are used by the City. Seven machines are used for snow plowing and one for street sanding.
4. **How many personnel are required to operate the plows?**  
The entire Public Works crew of ten men work together to clear the roadways and keep them safe.
5. **How long does it take to plow the City streets, alleys, and parking lots?**  
For a snowfall of twelve inches, it takes approximately eight to twelve hours.
6. **Why is the snow plowed to the center of the street in the downtown area?**
  - a. If we plowed snow to the side, we would lose parking along the curb resulting in a loss of business and thus, a loss of revenue that helps pay for snow removal.
  - b. The downtown street widths make it possible to plow to the center.
7. **Why is the snow plowed toward the curb and driveways rather than to the center of the street in residential areas?**
  - a. Snowplows are designed to discharge the snow to the right side allowing the snowplow to travel with the flow of traffic.
  - b. If the snow is plowed to the center of the street, vehicles cannot cross the snow berm that is left, requiring equipment to follow the plows to open the intersections which is cost prohibitive to do citywide.
  - c. When snow is allowed to remain in the center of the street, daytime melting would leave a thin layer of water in the street which could freeze at night and cause a dangerous situation. Additionally, excess street surface damage would occur from the freeze/thaw cycle.
  - d. Residential streets are generally too narrow to allow plowing to the center.
8. **Why doesn't the City clean out driveways with a loader after plowing?**

With approximately two thousand driveways in Mt. Shasta, this would be cost and time prohibitive.

**9. Why can't plow operators move the blade when they pass by a driveway?**

Our snowplows are equipped with two blades. The front blade pushes the snow to the side blade or "wing blade". The wing blade is attached at a fixed angle, and it can only move up or down. If the blade was lifted at a driveway while pushing snow, it would leave a snow berm protruding into the street which would require removal.

**10. Why is it necessary to widen the streets and fill driveways?**

- a. We keep the snow pushed back as far as possible to ensure adequate space for additional snow.
- b. If the streets are allowed to become too narrow with more accumulation, a traffic hazard is created by restricting travel to one lane, making emergency and other vehicle traffic more difficult.

**11. Why does the snowplow go by more than once, often filling my driveway after I have already shoveled it out?**

The snowplows must sometimes make two or more passes to completely clear and widen the street. The following suggestions may help:

- If possible, wait until the plow has finished your street before shoveling or clearing your driveway.
- Always shovel or move snow in the direction of normal vehicle travel on the street so the plow doesn't bring the snow back to your driveway.
- Do not shovel or blow snow from your driveway back into the street. It could freeze and create a safety hazard for others and cause significant damage to vehicles, snowplows, and other City equipment. City of Mt. Shasta **Muni-Code Chapter 12.24.060** makes it unlawful to place snow from private land onto any street, alley, or travel portion of the public right of way.

**12. How many miles does the City have to plow?**

The City is responsible for plowing approximately fifty miles of roadway.

**13. Why is parking not allowed on City Streets during snow removal?**

On street parking during snow removal conditions creates many problems:

- a. Many snowstorms come with little notice. Most often at night when you are sleeping. If your vehicle is left on the street, and snow falls, it is difficult to move the vehicle into your driveway. It is much easier to park your vehicle in your driveway before the storm arrives.
- b. City crews usually begin plowing around four o'clock in the morning, before most people have the chance to move their vehicle. If plows are forced to go around a vehicle parked on the street, a hazard is created by narrowing the street width. If the vehicle is moved after plowing, the snow obstruction

remains, which is a hazard and must be removed. This adds time and expense to snow removal operations.

- c. If streets are allowed to become too narrow, emergency vehicle traffic may become restricted.
- d. If vehicles are left on the streets, damage to vehicles and plow equipment could occur.
- e. **Muni-Code Chapter 10.44 of the City of Mt Shasta requires that vehicles must not be parked on the Streets, Avenues, Parking Lots or other ways or areas during snow removal operations. Vehicles in violation can be removed and stored at the owner's expense and be subject to fines of \$100.**
- f. FOR DESIGNATED SNOW REMOVAL PARKING AREAS CALL:
  - Mt. Shasta Police Department – (530) 926-7540
  - Mt. Shasta City Hall – (530) 926-7510
  - Public Works Department – (530) 926-7526

**14. How is it determined when to haul snow from the Downtown commercial district?**

- a. During snow removal operations, all other City functions must also continue. We try to remove the snow as soon as possible, especially if another storm is anticipated.
- b. Intersections are cleared back first, then the center berm. We will also try to start the berm removal at different locations each time snow is hauled away.

## **SNOW CONDITIONS EXIST**

- Generally, from November through March every year.
- When and excess of four (4) inches of snow has fallen (accumulated) on the ground and until travel ways have been cleared to their full widths. The right of way extends beyond the edge of the travel way, to the property line which is generally several feet beyond the edge of the travel way. This may occur while you are away from your car, so even if snow conditions did not exist when you left your car, you are subject to citation and/or tow.
- Cars subject to citation or tow are those parked in the street right-of-way.

**WINTER HINT:** When shoveling snow from your driveway, shovel to the right as you face the street. This way, the plow will move the snow further down the road, rather than move the shoveled snow back into your driveway.

The best policy is to keep your vehicle(s) parked off the streets at all times.

## **WE NEED YOU TO HELP US IMPROVE CITY SNOW REMOVAL**

The City of Mt. Shasta is seeking ways to improve its snow removal service for citizens and visitors in the City. One of the ways to speed snow removal and make it more thorough is to keep garbage cans and other refuse containers out of the berm on your pickup day.

When reuse containers are set in, or close to the berm during snow removal operations, the containers will likely get damaged, as plow operators cannot get out and move them. Replacing refuse containers isn't cheap for you, and neither are the repairs that may be necessary to the City equipment.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

1. Place your refuse containers at the end of your driveway **AT THE PROPERTY LINE, behind** the berm. Personnel from the Refuse Company **WILL** pick up containers placed correctly.
2. Place the containers out the night before your pickup day at the earliest. Keep in mind that wind, neighborhood children and other factors can move containers from where you placed them.
3. Be sure to keep emptied refuse containers in a place where they will not interfere with snow removal throughout the week.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

The City of Mt. Shasta