

Did You Know?

Coconino County / Flagstaff / Public Works' Road Responsibility

- ❖ According to the National Climatic Data Center, Flagstaff is the eighth snowiest city in the 48 contiguous states, with a 30-year average annual snowfall of over 100 inches.
- ❖ Coconino County is the second largest county in the contiguous United States. At almost 19,000 square miles, it is larger than countries like Denmark.
- ❖ Coconino County Public Works is responsible for plowing over 700 miles of County-maintained roads each winter in order to keep them open & passable. 2/3 of these roads are dirt/gravel and 1/3 of are paved.

Public Works Snow Removal / Ice Control Deployment

- ❖ Public Works snow removal operations motto is “Right Place, Right Time”...our crews go where the snow is. It’s a coordinated effort between County & City leadership, ADOT, NAU, Flagstaff Unified School District, and the National Weather Service.
- ❖ The team continuing to track this storm in order to deploy resources as efficiently as possible.
- ❖ Our team stays in touch with the National Weather Service throughout the storm in order to optimize these operations.
- ❖ At full deployment, our crews will be working two 12-hour shifts.
- ❖ After a storm, crews will conduct ice control operations, usually for several days.
- ❖ Safety is the name of the game.
- ❖ Public Works has about 45 pieces of equipment: 27 road graders and 18 10-wheel trucks - dressed out for winter plowing operations that are strategically situated around the County for snow removal and ice control operations. Graders are primarily for dirt roads and trucks are primarily for paved roads.

Traction: Cinders & Chemical Deicers (Road Salts)

- ❖ Public Works uses black volcanic cinders for (road) traction control. About 5,000 tons of these cinders are used each snow season. Cinders are a natural, plentiful

resource in northern Arizona, primarily because this used to be one of the most volcanically active regions in the United States.

- ❖ Chemical deicers (road salts) are only used for very specific areas like the Bellemont roundabout. The County used road salts on several roads up until 2013 when the Board decided to discontinue them primarily due to their detrimental impact of chemical deicers on Ponderosa pine trees.
- ❖ There is a [2013 U.S. Forest Service report](#) on the impacts of chemical deicers and a [2013 County green paper report](#) on the discontinuance of the use of chemical deicers.

Plowing Priorities

- ❖ County snow removal operations give priority to main arterial roadways then collector roads and residential roads.
- ❖ This allows citizens some mobility within the community and keeps emergency services as open as possible.
- ❖ Once these routes are accessible, residential roads will be plowed. Cul-de-sacs are usually plowed towards the end of a storm.
- ❖ We appreciate everyone's patience as our crews work to clear roads.

Winter Parking Ordinance

- ❖ Coconino County has adopted Ordinance 2022-06, which prohibits parking along county-maintained right of way at all times between November 1 and April 1.
- ❖ This ordinance is necessary to facilitate safer snow removal operations and to help mitigate dangerous snow-related traffic congestion and parking issues.
- ❖ All motor vehicles should be kept clear of the roads to expedite snow removal operations and to prevent damage to county snowplows or private vehicles.
- ❖ Any motor vehicle parked in a manner that presents an obstacle to efficient snow removal operations may be cited by the Sheriff's Department and may be towed away and stored at the owner's expense. For more information, please visit www.coconino.az.gov/WinterParkingOrdinance2022-06.

Driving in the Snow

- ❖ Don't drive if you don't have to. In addition to snow & ice on the road, windy conditions will seriously hinder visibility.
- ❖ Be aware of drivers around you who are not familiar with driving in snow.
- ❖ Most important thing: When the weather is at its worst, the Coconino County Public Works snow removal team needs to be at its best. Please give our plows room to work by staying back 100 feet and never try to pass a plow!

Questions

- ❖ If you have questions about snow removal operations, then please contact the Public Works Department at (928) 679-8300 or visit our webpage at www.coconino.az.gov/snow.