



Snow Smart Ways You Can Make Winter a Safer Season

Mammoth Lakes receives some of the heaviest snowfall in California. The Town's snow removal crew works diligently to keep our roads snow-free and clear to ensure safe driving for our residents and visitors. Our crew of permanent and seasonal snow removal operators work around the clock in twelve-hour shifts that may extend for weeks at a time. Priorities are established to consider which streets need to be cleared first in order to maintain emergency access and traffic flow throughout the town, and how wide to maintain streets as snow storage diminishes during the course of the winter season. You can help snow removal efforts by observing a few simple rules and by being snow smart.

Child Safety Children should be kept indoors while snow removal operations are under way. Snowplows and snowblowers spray large amounts of snow and debris several feet and at significant velocities. Children should not play in yards or build snow forts during snow removal operations, and they should know the dangers associated with snow removal. Under no circumstances should they dig snow caves in berms, because snow removal operations can result in cave-ins.

Pedestrian Safety Don't watch snow removal operations from the edge of the road. Again, blowers can shoot a very powerful spray of snow and debris for relatively long distances. If you want to watch the blowers or plows, do so from the safety of your home, condominium or hotel room.

Back Off Don't follow snow removal equipment too closely while in your vehicle. Snow removal operators request that you stay back at least 40-50 feet because loaders change direction quickly and many times without warning. Poor visibility, inherent in most winter storms, can make it difficult for the operator to see you. While there is no law prohibiting the safe passing of a snowplow, you should do so with extreme caution.

Slow Down Excessive speed is the major cause of traffic accidents during winter. Winter road conditions have very little margin for driver error and very little opportunity for safe, quick braking. Remember, brake gently and know your braking system. Be aware that anti-lock braking systems may actually require a longer braking distance in ice and snow conditions. Black ice frequently forms in shady areas and at night on seemingly clear and dry roads; use extreme caution when driving at night throughout the winter months. Be on the lookout for these spots and slow down before you get to them. Remember, when any kind of chain control is in effect, the maximum speed limit throughout town is 25 miles per hour. Drivers exceeding the 25 mph speed limit, or driving without chains while chain controls are in effect, may be cited by the Mammoth Lakes Police Department or the CHP. Patience goes a long way.

Protect Your Property Park all vehicles including boats and trailers as far off the roadway as possible. It is a violation of the Town of Mammoth Lakes municipal code to park on any roadway from Nov. 1 through April 30. This ordinance was passed so that snow removal crews can clear town roads, but it also reduces the risk of damage to residents' and visitors' property. When parking your vehicle, make sure that you have all of the vehicle parked well inside of the snow stakes and that it is parked in a location where it will be visible to the snow removal operators. Also, keep your vehicles free and clear of snow. The local hardware store carries bamboo poles and reflective poles that can be used to mark your car's location if you are not going to be able to dig it out for a few days; consider using these if something is preventing you from keeping your vehicle dug out and visible.

Snow Storage When removing snow from driveways on private property, do not place snow in the roadway or on the Town's snow storage easement. The easement is generally the ten-foot-wide area immediately abutting the pavement edge. Snow removal

services are required to maintain all snow storage areas on site at each property. If you run out of snow storage area, you can arrange for snow to be removed to the community snow storage pit operated by the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Light It Up Leave the exterior lighting of your home on at night during winter storms, as required by the Town of Mammoth Lakes municipal code. The lights are especially helpful to snow removal operators who may be having visibility trouble during storms, and assists them in identifying your driveway and home. Extra light also helps people find their way around neighborhoods during storms. In addition, please identify the entrance to your driveway with reflective poles, placing them a minimum of 2 feet to the property side of the Town's snow poles.

Got Questions? Call... Please do not try to stop or flag down the snow removal operators in their equipment as they are under instructions not to get out of their cabs while conducting snow removal operations. This is due in part to the need to maintain the pace of the snow removal effort. Instead, please call the Town of Mammoth Lakes (see below). The town has more than 156 lane miles of snow to remove, including the Scenic Loop Road, with limited equipment with which to do it all. During snowstorms, the Town operates all of its loaders around the clock, all of its blowers each night, and two blowers during the day.

Dave Beck	<i>Maintenance Superintendent</i>	760-934-2422 x 21
Ray Jarvis	<i>Public Works Director</i>	760-934-8989 x 257
Michael Grossblatt	<i>HR & Risk Management Director</i>	760-934-8989 x 266
Public Information Line		760-934-8054

CHAIN RESTRICTIONS

R-1 Chains are required on all vehicles under 6,000 pounds except those equipped with snow tires on the drive wheels. All vehicles over 6,000 pounds are required to place chains on the drive wheels.

R-2 Chains are required on all vehicles except four-wheel drives equipped with snow tires on all four wheels.

R-3 Chains are required on all vehicles without exception. Please be aware that these designations are for the safety of all and are enforced by public safety officers including our local Mammoth Lakes Police Department, Mono County Sheriff and the Highway Patrol. The penalty for failure to observe the posted chain controls may include a citation and a severe fine. So remember to always carry chains and use them when required to do so.

Call for current chain control restrictions 800-427-ROAD
or look for chain control signs throughout town.