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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
"Dobrovolny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 2/7/2019 7:11:51 PM  
**Subject:** Preparation for Cold Weather and Snow Events  
**Attachments:** ENG - Streets - Memo to Mayor Council - Preparations for Cold Weather and Snow Events - Feb. 7, 2019.pdf  
ATT00001.htm

Greetings Mayor and Council

Please see attached a memo from Jerry Dobrovolny regarding the City's current preparations for cold weather and snow events. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- A light snow event is slated to occur tomorrow into Saturday morning, based on the Vancouver-specific forecasts the City has received from meteorologists at *WeatherNet*.
- Although a major accumulation is unlikely, the City's snow and ice control procedures will be followed, with major transportation routes receiving a brine treatment if dry and a salt treatment if wet; arterial routes, emergency routes, bridges, school routes, and the 15 most widely used bike lanes will be cleared as well.
- Additional Streets crews are scheduled to work over the course of this weekend, and the Departmental Operations Centre (DOC) will be activated to monitor the weather and any situations that may arise, if need be.
- As all property owners must clear snow and ice from the sidewalks around their property by 10:00 am each day, the City's Snow Angel Program was established to match volunteers with those who are otherwise unable to obtain assistance with the clearing of sidewalks.
- During a snow event, drivers on City streets are encouraged to consider using tires with the three-peaked-mountain-and-snowflake symbol or the mud-and-snow symbol—and at least a 3.5 mm tread; should a driver be charged with causing an accident where the contributing factor was a set of improper tires based on the driving conditions, VPD officers have the option to increase fines.

- Prior to and throughout a snow event, the City ensures that the public is aware of measures being taken to assist with snow and ice removal, as well as information on how to stay safe and attend to responsibilities related to snow removal; residents are able to follow media outlets, social media platforms and VanConnect for detailed, ongoing updates—or to call the COV 3-1-1 line, which has an up-to-date snow message that has been activated.

If you require any further information, please contact Jerry Dobrovolny, GM of Engineering Services at [jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca](mailto:jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca) or 604.873.7331.

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## MEMORANDUM

February 07, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Taryn Scollard, Director, Streets Division

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Preparations for Cold Weather and Snow Events

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### Background

Winter weather is forecast to be arriving on Friday, February 8 with the potential for light snow flurries. In light of this, we would like to provide you with an update on our preparations and operational practices for ice and snow events.

As part of our regular ongoing operations, we work with a meteorologist (via *WeatherNet*) who provides us with regular weather updates specific to Vancouver proper. Through this channel we receive accurate predictions of local conditions and what we can expect within City limits, compared to Environment Canada's more generalized and widespread predictions.

Currently, light snow is forecast to fall intermittently from Friday morning into Saturday morning.

Although major snow accumulation is unlikely given the current forecast, we have been following our snow and ice control procedures. This includes outfitting the fleet with plows and salters or brine units. If roadways are wet and we are expecting snow or freezing rain, salt is applied to major transportation routes. In the dry weather we brine routes with salt water. We choose to use brine only if and when the streets are relatively dry prior to application.

We have additional crews scheduled to work over the course of the weekend. In the event of snow accumulations >1cm, we will activate the Departmental Operations Centre (DOC) to continue to monitor the situation and adjust plans as necessary.

As in the past, upon snow accumulations of 5 cm or more, we will clear snow from arterial routes, emergency routes, bridges, school routes, and the 15 most used bike lanes. We will also clear snow from arterial corner ramps, bus stops, and priority laneways required to assist with garbage collection. With lesser snow accumulations, or concerns of ice, we will treat surfaces with salt or brine.

### **Sidewalk Clearing, Snow Angels and Winter Tires**

Section 76 of the Street and Traffic By-law requires that all property owners clear snow and ice from sidewalks around their property by 10:00 am every day. Failure to remove snow and ice may result in a fine. The City's [Snow Angel](#) program was established to match volunteers with those who face mobility challenges and are unable to obtain assistance from professional snow removal companies, members of their household, friends, and/or neighbours.

We encourage those choosing to drive during a snow event to consider getting tires with the three-peaked-mountain-and-snowflake symbol OR the mud-and-snow symbol, with at least 3.5 mm tread. The Province of British Columbia requires that these tires be used on provincial highways. Though this is not a requirement in Vancouver, the VPD have the option to increase fines should a driver be charged with causing an accident where the contributing factor was improper tires based on the driving conditions.

### **Awareness and Public Education**

Prior to and throughout a snow event, we ensure that the public is aware both of the measures the City is taking to assist in snow and ice removal, as well as how they can stay safe and adhere to their own responsibilities related to snow removal.

Those of you who were on the Council orientation tour of National Yard on November 21 were able to view our winter storm response equipment display and primary salt pile. That same day we hosted our annual snow equipment showcase media event. At that event, 12 media outlets (including multiple Chinese-language outlets) obtained B-Roll footage of our equipment.

In addition to media outlets and social media platforms, we have sent out "push messages" via *VanConnect* to refer people to our Facebook page for detailed, ongoing updates. Our 3-1-1 line has also activated the snow message on their phone line.

We will continue to ensure residents are provided with up-to-date information on snow and ice removal measures.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Jerry W. Dobrovolny, P.Eng., MBA  
General Manager, Engineering Services

604.873.7331 | [jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca](mailto:jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca)