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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 12/22/2022 1:59:30 PM
Subject: [Essential Travel Only Advisory Due to Snow and Freezing Rain \(Dec. 22, 2022\)](#)

EMBARGOED UNTIL 2.15 PM TODAY

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to let you know that the City will be issuing information bulletin below today advising residents to only undertake essential travel in anticipation of the forecast for additional snow and freezing rain. The information bulletin also highlights safety tips for residents if they must be on the roads, the responsibilities of residents when it comes to clearing snow and ice, and how residents can help others through our Snow Angels program. Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at approximately 2.15 pm today.

Planned social media posts highlighting the City's proactive plans for the coming snowfall, essential travel only messaging, our prioritized treatment plan, snow angels, catch basin clearing, how to use salt sustainably, and snow/ice clearing enforcement responsibilities translated in Vancouver's top five languages are also planned for today, tomorrow and through the weekend. We welcome Council's amplification of the City's social media posts as you see fit.

Taryn Scollard, Deputy General Manager, Operations & Safety will be available for interviews this afternoon, with support from Albert Shames for media requests on our snow and ice clearing enforcement.

Thank you,

Karen

**City of Vancouver
Information bulletin
December 22, 2022**

With snow tonight and freezing rain, City advises to stay off roads

City crews have been working 24 hours a day to apply salt and brine treatments for the coming snow, while cleaning up significant snow accumulations from the recent snow fall. With up to 25 cm of snow forecasted overnight into Friday, followed by possible freezing rain, roads will be exceptionally slippery. The City is asking residents to only undertake essential travel to stay safe, while also keeping roads clear for crews who are out treating snow, ice, and flooding issues and emergency vehicles.

If you must be on the roads:

- Equip your vehicle with the **right tires** for the conditions.
- Learn about **preparing an emergency kit for your vehicle** and what to do if you get stuck.
- If your car is parked on a major route, please move it to a side street to make room for plows, and City trucks
- Check **Translink** for transit updates and the Provincial **DriveBC** website to plan travel on highways and commuter bridges exiting Vancouver.
- Plan travel according to our **prioritized treatment plan**

We prioritize snow and ice treatment with a focus on:

- Major roads and bus routes
- Bridges and bridge sidewalks
- Main streets adjacent to major hospitals
- The four major pedestrian pathways - Arbutus Greenway, Central Valley Greenway, False Creek Seawall, and Coal Harbour Seawall
- The 16 most-used bike routes

Residential side streets are not included as part of our treatment plans, with the exception of priority hills and access routes to hospitals and schools.

Residents also play an important role in keeping our City safe:

- Remove snow before it hardens to ice. Vancouver property owners and tenants are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the full width of sidewalks that surround their property each day, by 10am when there is snow on the sidewalk or freezing temperatures., as a key measure to promote safety and accessibility of routes. This bylaw is in effect seven days a week and failure to do so can result in fines.
- Consider signing up for the **Snow Angel Program** where volunteers are matched with people with mobility issues to help clear their sidewalks.

The City also has Extreme Weather Response Shelters and Warming Centres open every night between November and March in addition to Temporary Winter Shelters. The most up-to-date information can be found on the City's social media pages, and at <https://mobile.twitter.com/ewrmetrovan>.

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Note to editors

Taryn Scollard, Deputy General Manager, Operations & Safety, will be available to speak to media via Zoom between 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please email media@vancouver.ca for further details.

Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications
media@vancouver.ca