

CHAPTER 13A

SNOW Emergencies

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Section 13A-101. Snow Emergency.

- A. The Chief of Police will recommend to the Mayor and City Council such public streets, roads, highways, alleys and other thoroughfares within the city as may be deemed appropriate as snow emergency routes, and such streets, roads, highways, alleys and other thoroughfares, when so designated by the Mayor and City Council, shall be appropriately signed.
- B. After such streets, roads, highways, alleys and other thoroughfares have been so designated and signed and a snow emergency declared as prescribed in the following, it shall be unlawful for any motor vehicle to travel or attempt to travel upon such street, road, highway, alley or other thoroughfare unless the vehicle is equipped with chains on no fewer than two driving wheels or unless no fewer than two driving wheels are equipped with snow tires. For the purpose of this section, snow tires shall mean those tires which are normally designated by the manufacturer as snow tires, or such tires as may be approved by the State of Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles as meeting the standards of effectiveness required of normally designated snow tires, and which are in good state of repair.
- C. The city manager or his/her designee may declare a City of Mount Rainier snow emergency, whenever the city manager or his/her designee determines that to do so is in the best interests of the safety and welfare of the citizenry. The City of Mount Rainier Snow Emergency shall continue in full force and effect until such time as the City Manager, Chief of Police, or Public Works Director determines that the emergency shall be lifted.
- D. In the event of a snow emergency in the City of Mount Rainier, the latest edition of the City Emergency Operations Plan shall go into effect. (*See Chapter 13B, Section 13B-102*).

- E. Public Notice of the City of Mount Rainier Snow Emergency may be given by city cable television, website, City newsletter, television and radio notices, e-mail alerts, twitter, and such other means as the city manager or his/her designee deems necessary, effective, and appropriate. (Ord. 1-2011, 4/5/2011)
- F. The City Manager or his/her designee has authority to determine whether City government offices will be open, will delay opening, or will be closed during a snow emergency. The decision to open or close City government offices does not depend on the declaration of a snow emergency by the City of Mount Rainier. Pubic notice about the status of City government operations may be given by the means set forth in Section 13-A-101 E. above. The City Manager or his/her designee will notify the Mayor and Council immediately regarding changes in the status of City government operations.

Section 13A-102. Signs.

On each street designated by this chapter as a snow emergency route, the Director of Public Works shall post special signs at intervals not exceeding three hundred feet with the wording: "SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTE." These signs shall be distinctive and uniform in appearance and shall be plainly readable to persons traveling on each street so designated.

Section 13A-103. Removal and Impounding of Vehicles.

Members of the Mount Rainier City Police Department are hereby authorized to remove or have removed a vehicle from a street to the nearest garage or other place of safety, including another place on a street, or to a garage designated or maintained by the Police Department or otherwise maintained by the city, when:

1. the vehicle is parked, stopped or standing on a part of a snow emergency route on which a parking prohibition is in effect.
2. The vehicle is stalled on a part of a snow emergency route on which there is a covering of snow, sleet or ice or on which there is a parking prohibition in effect and the person who was operating such vehicle does not appear to be removing it in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
3. The vehicle is parked on any street in the city and is a hazard to public safety.

Section 13A-104. Deposit of snow in streets prohibited; permitted disposal.

It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, occupant or tenant of premises abutting upon any public street, road, highway, alley or other thoroughfare within the City of Mount Rainier to

throw, shovel, plow or cause to be thrown snow into or upon any street, road, highway, alley or other thoroughfare at any time. Snow may be placed in the tree-box space between the street side of the sidewalk or walkway and the street curb in front of any residence or place of business without blocking any sidewalk or walkway with snow.

Section 13A-105. Obstruction of traffic and interference with snow removal equipment prohibited.

It shall be unlawful to drive or park a vehicle into or upon a street, road, highway, alley or other thoroughfare so as to obstruct the flow of traffic or to interfere with the clearance of snow and/or ice by equipment used for such purpose.

Section 13A-106. Designation of snow emergency routes.

A. The following streets or portions of street within the city are hereby designated as snow emergency routes:

1. 34th Street from Rhode Island Avenue to Arundel Road.
2. Chillum Road from Arundel Road to the City boundary at Queens Chapel Road (MD Rt. 500).
3. Rainier Avenue from 34th Street to Upshur Street.
4. Upshur Street from Rainier Avenue to 28th Place.
5. 28th Place from Upshur Street to Russell Avenue.
6. Russell Avenue from 28th Place to Arundel Road.
7. Varnum Street from Russell Avenue to Eastern Avenue
8. Arundel Road from Russell Avenue to 34th Street (Ord 14-2003, 02/03/04)

B. In addition, the Mayor and City Council reserve the right to designate, by ordinance and after a public hearing, other streets, roads, highways, alleys or thoroughfares as snow emergency routes, other than those specifically named above in subsection (a).

Section 13A-107. Violation and penalties.

Every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall be required to pay a fine of One Hundred Dollars(\$100), in addition to any other costs provided by law. Fines

may be changed by resolution of the Mayor and City Council. In no event shall a fine exceed the amount set in Chapter 16, Violations of Ordinances -- Misdemeanors and Infractions (Procedure).
(Ord. 14-2003,02/03/04)