

## EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES



The City of Gering has been working on establishing emergency snow routes in the City for quite some time and in February 2009, the City Council passed an ordinance providing for emergency snow routes. The emergency snow routes require vehicles to be moved off the major thoroughfares when a snow emergency is declared. Vehicles left on the street are subject to towing; however, the City will first attempt to notify the homeowners before towing. Signs designating the emergency snow routes have been installed.

The following is the emergency snow route ordinance:

Gering City Code Title VII: Traffic Code, Sections 76.01 though 76.06

### ***EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL***

**§ 76.01 INTRODUCTION.** Due to the location of Gering, Nebraska, snow, ice, or freezing rain can be expected between September through April each year. Snow and ice control is basically emergency work in which City streets must be cleared at any time of the day or night. Since snow and ice removal is considered an emergency service by the City of Gering, the City of Gering shall undertake operations using the methods, resources, and equipment necessary to keep access to the City as open as possible during snow events.

**§ 76.02 SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARATION.** (A) A snow emergency is defined as a special condition of a snowfall event requiring residents to move their vehicles off the snow emergency routes to accommodate emergency snow removal. (B) A snow emergency declaration allows for the towing of vehicles from the emergency snow routes. A snow emergency is normally declared after a measurable snowfall of two (2) inches or more; however, any amount of snow combined with ice, rain, and/or wind can also require a snow emergency to be declared. (C) The City Administrator or Public Works Director may declare a snow emergency. A snow emergency may be declared in advance of an anticipated storm, to start at a specific time; or a snow emergency may be declared anytime during or after a storm. A snow emergency will normally not last more than 72 hours past the end of the last snowfall. (D) That a snow emergency has been declared will be communicated to the public through mass media outlets as deemed appropriate by the City Administrator or Public Works Director.

**§ 76.03 SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES.** (A) A system of marked snow emergency routes has been established to maintain the flow of traffic, goods and services to the City of Gering on thoroughfare streets. The marked snow emergency routes are established as follows:

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10<sup>th</sup> Street from "J" Street to "U" Street

10<sup>th</sup> Street (Scottsbluff/Gering Highway) from "U Street to the river bridge

"M" Street/Old Oregon Trail from the cemetery road east to Highway 71 bypass

Kimball Avenue from Five Rocks Road to "J" Street  
Five Rocks Road from Robidoux Road to Country Club Road  
"U" Street from Five Rocks Road to 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
"U" Street from 7<sup>th</sup> Street east to city limits  
"S" Street from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
7<sup>th</sup> Street from "M" Street to Country Club Road  
Country Club Road from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street

(B) Modifications to Ban. The foregoing prohibition shall be modified within the area of the Downtown Business District designed for parking and more particularly described as follows: (1) 10<sup>th</sup> Street from "K" Street to "S" Street; (2) "M" Street from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

(C) The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to the above described area during the business hours of six o'clock (6:00) a.m. to seven o'clock (7:00) p.m.

**§ 76.04 DRIVEWAYS AND SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY.** (A) City snowplows will not clear private driveways. The snow placed in driveways by City plows is a natural result of clearing the streets and is the responsibility of the property owner to remove. (B) Only on emergency snow routes, when plowed windrows exceed 24 inches, if time and conditions allow, the City will attempt to plow open private driveways at the curb line. (C) Snow from a private driveway, private sidewalk, business driveway, or parking lot may not be placed on a City street. (D) City equipment will not be used to remove piled snow or push snow away from private property or businesses. Snow will only be removed from City facilities. Using City equipment to clear snow from private property is a violation of this code unless it is necessary to allow emergency vehicles access to the private property for ambulance, fire or police calls.

**§ 76.05 VEHICLE TOWING DURING DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCIES.** Vehicles parked on a designated Snow Emergency Route street during a declared Snow Emergency are subject to tow without notice to the owners, and at the owners' expense. In addition, if a vehicle is left on a public street or alley on a designated snow route in such a fashion as to hinder snow removal, that vehicle may be towed at the expense of the owner of the vehicle, provided that an attempt was made to contact the owner to have the vehicle moved; and that either the owner could not be located, or the owner was contacted, that the owner of the vehicle failed to move the vehicle within fifteen (15) minutes after being contacted.

**§ 76.06 VIOLATION OF VEHICLES PARKING ON EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES.** A violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine.

Also, please remember that Gering City Code Title IX; Section 95.01 prohibits the accumulation of snow, sleet, mud or ice on sidewalks. Sidewalks shall be cleaned within 5 hours after the cessation of the storm, unless the storm or fall of snow shall have taken place in the nighttime, in which case the sidewalk shall be cleaned before 8:30 a.m. the following day.

If you have any questions, please call Casey Dahlgrin, Transportation Superintendent, Street Department at (308) 436-6835.