



320 EAST MOSBY ROAD, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801 OFFICE (540) 434-5928 • FAX (540) 434-2695

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Contact: Kelly Adams, Public Works Outreach & Communications Specialist 540-434-5928 x2215 Kelly.Adams@HarrisonburgVa.gov

City crews ready to respond to winter weather; residents should prepare

Bulk, yard debris collection canceled; do not park on streets; stay home if possible

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The Harrisonburg Department of Public Works is preparing for significant snowfall tomorrow, and resident help is needed to ensure everyone remains safe.

Winter weather is expected to begin early in the morning and will last throughout much of the day. Residents are urged to stay home if possible and not park on streets to allow for plow crews to work. Road conditions will likely deteriorate quickly, and staying home is the best way to ensure emergency responders do not have to respond to additional incidents.

If you do go out, do not attempt to pass snowplows



The Recycling Convenience Center (above) will be closed on Wednesday due to winter weather. Bulk and yard debris collection also will be canceled.

and stay at least 100 feet behind them. Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles, and be aware of areas that will ice quicker, such as shaded areas and bridges.

Residents will not receive bulk item and yard debris collection tomorrow as City crews instead focus on responding to the expected winter weather event. The Recycling Convenience Center and Mobile Recycling Unit will also be closed on Wednesday. Downtown customers should hold their trash for collection on Thursday, Dec. 17.

Residents also should make themselves aware of City guidelines concerning sidewalks. Residents, business owners, and property owners must clear snow from the sidewalk in front of their home or business within 24 hours if snowfall is six inches or less, and within 36 hours if snowfall is greater than six inches.

"When there is a winter storm event, our sanitation trucks become snowplows, and sanitation crews become snowplow drivers, to help clear Harrisonburg streets as quickly as possible," Director of Public Works Tom Hartman explained. "In order to help us respond to this event, please avoid parking on streets, avoid travel when crews are clearing roadways, do not attempt to pass snowplows, and stay at least 100 feet behind if following a plow. And remember, when shoveling snow it is best to wait until your street has been plowed."

Snowplows will focus on primary streets first. Plowing of residential streets begins once the storm ends.

Residents and businesses of Harrisonburg are welcome to bring their bulk items and yard debris to the Recycling Convenience Center at 2055 Beery Road ahead of the storm, or once the Recycling Convenience Center re-opens after the storm. The Recycling Convenience Center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, year-round.

For updates on Public Works activity follow us on <u>Facebook</u> @HarrisonburgPublicWorks.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 54,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at <u>www.HarrisonburgVA.gov</u>

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