

Snow Removal and Ice Control Plan

Installation Safety Office

The recent cold weather and accumulation of snow and ice has created some inconveniences and complaints about slipping and inquiries ranging from whom will apply rock salt to melt the ice on the sidewalk in front of my house to where people can obtain a snow shovel. Luckily only a few scrapes and bruises have been reported so far. So let me explain how we handle the winter conditions on our installations. Foremost, a snow removal and ice control plan exists and works very well when we take responsibility for our immediate areas and work as a team. The plan is prioritized to sustain the USAREUR Commanding General's mission; to ensure access control points and roads remain open and accessible; and to keep sidewalks, parking lots and steps to buildings clear and safe for walking.

The USAG Wiesbaden Directorate of Public Works (DPW) has the primary responsibility for snow removal and ice control operations. They have three dedicated teams to accomplish this. One team will be tasked solely with airfield support and the other teams perform street and sidewalk clearance.

Here is how the basic plan works. The airfield runway and tarmac are number one priority and will be cleared and managed by DPW and Airfield Operations. For roads, streets and sidewalks, they are broken down into priority one, two, three, with one being the major traffic arteries and main sidewalks in family housing and three the smaller roads, parking lots and internal walk areas. All effort will be made to have roads and streets cleared by DPW before the start of normal duty hours, 06:00.

Snow removal for the Newman Village, Clay Kaserne and Mainz-Kastel Housing roads is the responsibility of the DPW. All roads within the Aukamm, Crestview housing areas are the responsibility of the City of Wiesbaden. All requests from housing occupants for assistance or additional services should be relayed to the snow removal control center in Bldg. 1757, 548-4051/4054, or the DPW Customer Service Center, 548-4357 / 548-HELP. During off-duty hours requests can be submitted to the Fire Station DSN 337-5883 or CIV 0611-705-5883.

Parking Areas are prioritized by occupants they support will require individual treatment, depending on size, layout, and urgency of use. The snow removal crew chief from DPW will determine exactly how the snow will be removed and coordinate with the Military Police if assistance is required in removing vehicles. Due to the density of patrons already parked in the Hainerberg PX and Commissary parking lots, by the time the first crew arrives, only the entrance and exit to the parking lots and the aisles between the parking rows will be cleared as a first response. The clearance of the entire parking lot will come as a secondary response when the area is free of POVs.

The removal of snow or ice from sidewalks is the primary responsibility of the DPW Grounds Maintenance shop. This work will be performed with either motorized walk-behind or riding snow brooms and mechanical spreaders. Priorities for this work may differ, depending upon the time of day and day of the week. For example on Sundays the Chapels require early clearance, on Saturdays the Shopping areas have higher density of customers, and for Weekdays the School entrances and walkways need to be cleared.

Family Housing occupants are responsible for the removal of snow from all sidewalks and walkways pertaining to their house. State of Hessen Bylaw No. 6 states that housing occupants living within the city limits of Wiesbaden are legally bound to keeping the sidewalks and walkways, pertaining to their residence, free from snow and ice between the hours of 07.00 and

22.00. Snow that has been removed from the sidewalks will not be deposited in the street so as to hinder the parking of vehicles or the street drainage inlets. In addition, the use of chemical de-icing agents (Salt) is only approved to combat ice and only on steep inclines and steps. The approved materials for normal sidewalks are abrasives, such as sand. To accomplish this the Wiesbaden DPW maintains grit boxes at 104 strategic locations throughout the community. In the event of grit boxes requiring refill or surfaces needing snow and ice removal, the Wiesbaden POC is the Chief, Roads and Grounds Branch, DSN 548-4050 or 548-4054.

Ultimately it is responsibility of the building manager, supervisor or senior leader to ensure a safe work environment, to include steps, walkways, and parking lots. Due to the lower priority of parking lots and sidewalks, an inclement weather plan should be discussed to cover steps and sidewalks around your facility to protect customers and employees. DPW can only provide snow equipment to their dedicated team members. However, the grid boxes are available for everyone's use.

When driving a vehicle, Green, Amber, Red and Black are used to determine road conditions. Road Condition GREEN means ideal road conditions exist. Drivers will observe normal precautions and speed limits. For Road Condition AMBER, packed snow or slush with a depth less than 4 inches or ice accumulation exists. Increased driving times, hazardous road conditions, and driver experience will be considered in dispatching vehicles under Amber conditions. Road Condition RED means only mission-essential and emergency-essential vehicle dispatches are authorized. Drifting snow between 4 and 8 inches and/or sheets of ice exists. The dispatch record for mission- and emergency-essential vehicles will be marked "mission- and emergency-essential." Director of Public Works and Chief of building, grounds and operational maintenance may approve mission-essential dispatches during Red road conditions to provide emergency support for snow and ice removal. A risk assessment will be completed prior to dispatch.

During Road Condition BLACK only emergency-essential vehicle dispatches are authorized. Heavy snow drifts with more than 8 inches or extreme ice sheets exist. The dispatch record for emergency-essential vehicles (police, fire, ambulance, and emergency engineer) will be marked "emergency-essential." Chiefs of appropriate offices (provost marshal, fire, medical activity, and DPW) may authorize dispatch of emergency vehicles. During road condition "Black" authorization to operate a vehicle must be in memorandum format and dated for the day of operation. Any vehicle without the authorization will not be allowed off post (vehicles will be allowed on post for safe haven). Security guards will check all vehicles departing post for dispatch authority. A risk assessment will be completed before dispatch.

As a reminder current on-post road and school closures can be found at http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/webs/sites/staff_org/safety/road_conditions/default.aspx

General winter season walking safety tips:

Walk like a penguin

Shuffle your feet along the surface

Keep 3-points of contact when getting in and out of a vehicle

Wear sensible shoes with rubber soles and sufficient tread for increased friction

Wear boots, shoe covers or slip on shoe cleats

Pay attention to your path of travel

Finally, remember to watch out for children playing in snow piles near the roads. These areas are notorious for causing fatalities from snow trucks crushing or burying kids while plowing snow.

The safety of both drivers and pedestrians in and around the garrison is a priority especially when our installation is impacted by inclement weather. Snow and ice removal operations are a shared responsibility and are prioritized in support of the USAREUR mission. DPW's teams work as efficiently as possible beginning with the highest priority routes.