



City of Cordova

PO Box 1210 • 601 1st St • Cordova,
Alaska 99574 • (907) 424-6200

CONTACT:

Helen Howarth, City Manager
(907) 424-6200

citymanager@cityofcordova.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5th, 2022

Winter Warnings From Our Fire, Streets, and Refuse Departments

Cordova! This has been an extreme winter! Here are a few messages from our Fire, Streets, and Refuse Departments on how to help them best do their jobs and keep all of us safe!

A Message from your Fire Department:

One of the forgotten dangers of living in Alaska is a roof full of snow. The chance of a roof collapse or being caught in an avalanche of roof snow is real. As we saw in 2012, heavy snow loads can cause roofs, decks, stairs and awnings to collapse, as most structures aren't rated for the amount of snow we can get. As snow melts over time, icicles form. While pretty, they can cause serious injury or kill someone when they break loose. Ice Dams form at the edge of roof lines and can damage roofs and inundate interiors, causing expensive remodels or mold. Heavy snow and ice can sluff off roofs and land on people, pets, cars, or fuel tanks (potentially causing a spill). As snow slides down roofs, it can also dislodge chimney stacks—an expensive repair.

Heat inside houses can cause the snow closest to the roof to melt and refreeze. This can be a serious problem for firefighters during a chimney fire. Firefighters don't wear cleats on their boots to get a good grip on icy roofs because cleats are dangerous when climbing ladders. Time spent shoveling snow instead of fighting a fire can lead to more damage. If the house does get involved in a fire, having that extra load on the roof and extra weight will make those trusses and ceilings fail a lot quicker.

Products like a Snow Roof Rake which you can purchase online or order from a local retailer is the preferred method to remove snow from a roof and quite affordable. Many young local entrepreneurs also offer services to shovel snow at reasonable rates.

Please don't plow, shovel, or blow snow on Fire Hydrants. While it only takes a few seconds to cover a Fire Hydrant, they can take a significant amount of time to dig out, seriously impeding fire operations.

Both business and homeowners can be held liable for damages if someone gets injured. Keep those roofs clear and walkways sanded.

A Message from your Streets Department:

- Store snow removed from your driveway and roof in your yard whenever possible.
- Never store vehicles, boats or other items in the Right of Way – as snow accumulates the roadway narrows.
- Be aware of and extra cautious around Streets Department Equipment in the roadways: it may be difficult for operators to see you.
- Never play in snow dumps.
- Volunteer and shovel out a fire hydrant if you see one that has been plowed over.
- Remove cars from the Right of Way when you see plows coming.
- Park in areas that have been plowed or move cars to plowed areas throughout the day.

A Message from Your Refuse Department:

The main issue is keeping your garbage accessible to the crew. Shovel out your cans, clean the snow off them, and keep them visible to the crew.

Winter weather can have a major impact on the routes. Road conditions can drastically affect how routes are run and the timing of pick up may be different than during summer. All trash needs to be out by 7am on the day of collection.

Thank you for keeping each other safe by helping your fire, streets, and refuse departments run smoothly this winter!

####