



Waseca Police Department

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Frequently Asked Questions about Waseca's Winter Parking Ordinances

The following is a list of questions we often hear regarding snow emergencies in Waseca. Winters can be very difficult for everyone in Minnesota. Our end goal is simple- we'd rather have people move their cars than have to write them tickets.

Q: Why does the City of Waseca declare snow emergencies?

A: Snow emergencies allow the Waseca Street Department to try to safely and efficiently remove snow and ice from the streets. When cars are parked on the streets, it not only requires extra time to plow around them, and results in having to come back and clean up later, but it creates unsafe conditions for both the plow driver and the public by limiting visibility and creating extra maneuvers for the plow driver. The quicker and fewer times the City has to plow streets saves the public money and reduces the number of times a property owner has to deal with snow due to the snow plow operations.

Q: When is a snow emergency declared?

A: A snow emergency is declared upon receiving three inches of snow anywhere in the City. It can also be declared by the Director of Engineering in cases where roadways need to be maintained due to current snow and ice conditions. During a declared snow emergency, it is unlawful to park or leave a vehicle standing on any street or avenue until the time as the street or avenue has been substantially cleared of snow from curb to curb, or until the snow emergency has been canceled.

Q: How do I know a snow emergency has been declared and what time do I need to have my car off of the street?

A: A snow emergency in Waseca is AUTOMATIC upon receiving three or more inches of snow and street parking is not allowed immediately thereafter, until the street has been cleared of snow from curb to curb. The City makes every effort to announce a snow emergency as early as possible but a formal announcement before a snow emergency is in effect is not required or always. The City primarily uses its Facebook page to announce snow emergencies and will notify the Waseca County News and KOWZ radio station as soon as possible. It is best practice for citizens to monitor the weather and try to get their cars off the street whenever a snow event

is predicted. This reduces the chances of a ticket during a declared snow emergency and allows the City to complete snow and ice removal operations in the most efficient manner. It is up to the vehicle owner to be aware of the weather and have their car off of the street. The City generally will deploy level of snow and ice control operations whenever we receive an inch or more. A snow emergency can be declared at anytime of day and the Street department may plow at any time during the day or night, depending on when the snowfall arrives.

Q: When does the Waseca Police Department begin writing tickets?

A: We may begin writing tickets at anytime during the day or night, once three inches of snow has fallen and/or a snow emergency has been declared. However, our ultimate goal is to have the streets clear of vehicles so the plows don't need to work around them.

Q: I got a snow emergency ticket, how do I pay for it?

A: You can pay the administrative fine directly to the City of Waseca at the Public Safety Building, 303 South State Street, via mail or personal delivery within 7 days. If you would like to contest the ticket, contact the Police Department and we will issue you a court citation so your case may be heard in front of a judge. If you do not pay the administrative fine within 7 days, we will automatically send you a Court citation. The current fine amount, as set by City Council resolution, is \$30.00.

Q: Why does the City of Waseca not have even-odd parking?

A: This is a common question that has a very important answer. Basically, it comes down to money and time. The Street Department is able to clear all of the residential streets of snow in one shift. This makes it unnecessary to plow twice, such as in even-odd parking. This saves you, the taxpayer, quite a bit of money- Street Department employees don't need to use unnecessary overtime to do work in two shifts, when it can be done in one. This also prevents having one side of the street have snow sit on it longer than necessary and potentially freeze harder on that side of the street causing icing and drainage problems in the street that make snow removal harder and more costly.

Q: What is the actual text of the snow emergency ordinance?

A: **71.06** WINTER PARKING; SNOW EMERGENCIES.

To facilitate snow removal, the following additional parking restrictions shall be in effect.

(A) A snow emergency will be declared by the Director of Engineering, premised upon threatening or existing adverse weather or street condition, or when discretion necessitates. Notification procedures of the snow emergency shall be as per the Snow and Ice Control Policy adopted by the City Council. During a declared snow emergency, it is unlawful to park or leave a vehicle standing on any street or avenue until the time as the street or avenue has been substantially cleared of snow from curb to curb, or until the snow emergency has been canceled.

(B) No owner, tenant or manager of any premises in the city shall allow snow and ice accumulations in off-street parking areas which reduces the number of parking stalls available for use below the number of required off-street parking stalls under [Ch. 154](#) of this code, or

under a conditional use permit. The owners, tenants or property managers shall have 24 hours to clear required parking areas after a snowfall.

(C) Following the accumulation of three inches or more of snow fall in the City of Waseca it shall be unlawful for the driver or owner of any motor vehicle, trailer or implement to park or leave standing such a vehicle, trailer or implement on any street or alley within the corporate limits of the City of Waseca. Parking may not be resumed on any streets or alleys until snow removal has been completed on said streets.

Q: Who do I call with more questions?

A: Feel free to call the Waseca Police Department at 507-835-9720, or visit the City of Waseca website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us.

Thank you- and we wish you a safe and healthy winter!