Stay Up-to-Date with Storm Communications

Town Website
www.townofbarnstable.us
Updates posted on home page in special "Storm Update" box.

Channel 18
Tune in to Barnstable (Comcast) Channel 18 for special programming and a rolling update scroll

Social Media
Facebook
www.facebook.com/TownofBarnstable

Twitter
@BarnstableMA

Telephone Storm Line
508-862-INFO (4636) for a recording of the most recent update.

Important Safety Contact Numbers:
Call 911 for All Emergencies.

For all Non-Emergencies, call the Barnstable Police Department at 508-775-0812.

Report any power outages by calling EVERSOURCE at 1-800-592-2000.

For downed trees, please call Highway at 508-790-6330.

Cape Cod & Islands Red Cross Chapter can be reached at 508-775-1540.

How can you help?

Please stake your property
One of the important items one can do to help our plow drivers is stake the edge of your properties with plow stakes/reflectors. Plow stakes can be wood or fiberglass with reflectors on top or wrapped around the body of the stake. The reflective material needs to be high enough up the stake that it can be seen over the snow drift. The stakes should be driven into the ground as close to the edge of the property as possible. Generally we recommend placing them every 8-10 feet. Installing stakes is easier before the ground freezes, so we recommend you do it sooner rather than later.

Please follow the advice of public safety officials. When a driving ban is put into effect, it is for your protection. Please stay off the roads until given the all clear notice.

Also:
♦ Make certain your vehicle is ready for winter driving.
♦ Reduce your speed. This is the number one cause of winter accidents.
♦ Please give plows and sanders the right of way and stay at least 50 feet back from each.
The Department’s goal during a storm is to remove snow to sufficient width and depth to allow the public to travel at reduced speeds throughout the town during and immediately after a storm. It is generally not possible for the Department to achieve and maintain bare pavement during a storm event.

To better manage our efforts and expectations of outcomes, the DPW has categorized winter storms and efforts into three categories of storm. They are loosely defined as follows:

**CATEGORY A:**
- Most common type of event
- Accumulation of 2”-18” over 24 hours
- Snowfall of 1 inch or less per hour

- Main roads will be cleared and corners pushed back - 8 hours after precipitation ends.
- Secondary, or residential, streets cleared and corners pushed back - 16 hours after precipitation ends.
- Sidewalks/Bike paths cleared - this effort will begin within 48 hours of precipitation ending.
- Snow removal from business districts - The decision to conduct snow removal, from which villages, and the timing of that removal will be made by the Town Manager or his designee.

**CATEGORY B:**
- Less common type of event
- Accumulation of 18” to 24”, spread over 24 hours, with snowfall of 1” per hour or less.
- DPW will request parking ban from the Town Manager.
- Heavy snow removal equipment (loaders and backhoes) will be diverted to roads, as 1-ton and smaller trucks are not effective in a Category B.
- Main roads plowed as normal, cleared and corners pushed back - 24 hours after precipitation ends.
- Secondary roads: Initial level of service to just allow for emergency service vehicles. Secondary roads will not be widened out with corners pushed back until at least 48 hours after the storm ends. Expect hard pack conditions on secondary roads.
- Snow removal from business districts - The decision to conduct snow removal, from which villages, and the timing of that removal will be made by the Town Manager or his designee.

**CATEGORY C:**
- Unusually large and intense storm.
- Accumulations greater than 24”, spread over 24 hours or longer, with snowfall of 1 inch per hour or more; OR, a storm with less total accumulations, but with extended periods of snowfall greater than 1” per hour.
- Priority: hospital routes, assisting Police and Fire with life safety issues and the largest and busiest of the main roads.
- DPW will request parking restrictions from the Town Manager. Abandoned vehicles stuck on main roads will be handled by the Barnstable Police Department.
- Snow removal equipment (loaders, backhoes, etc.) will be diverted to roads as necessary, as 6-wheeler dump trucks and smaller trucks are not effective in Category C.
- Plowing will be slow due to white out conditions and drifting snow.
- Secondary roads and smaller main roads will be left until the highest priority main roads are opened. Expect “hard pack” conditions on all roads.
- Once main roads are opened, DPW efforts will be split between widening main roads and opening secondary roads. Initial level of service for secondary roads will be to open for emergency vehicles. Secondary roads will not be widened out with corners pushed back until at least 4 days after precipitation ends.
- Parking lots and sidewalks will be left until well after the storm ends.
- Snow removal from business districts - The decision to conduct snow removal, from which villages, and the timing of that removal will be made by the Town Manager or his designee.