**ECHO Q&A**

Emergency and Community Health Outreach

Questions & Sample Answers / ECHO-TV

“Snow”

(Recording Show: @ TPT)

1. **What exactly is a ‘snow emergency’?**
   - A declaration of parking regulations that take effect after or during a significant snowfall.
   - Allows the streets to be plowed completely.
   - Plowing starts at 9 p.m.
   - So plows can clear the snow, parked cars need to be off the street.

2. **Why does a city declare one?**
   - To make sure police cars, fire engines, ambulances and other emergency vehicles can get to every address in town.
   - Allows people to park on certain streets while all city streets are plowed.
   - When cars are following the Snow Emergency rules, snowplow drivers can do the job more quickly.
   - When cars are parked illegally, the cars need to be towed before the snowplows can come clear the snow.

For Minneapolis guest:

3. **When does Minneapolis declare a snow emergency?**
   - When a significant amount of snowfall needs to be cleared from the streets.
   - No later than 6 p.m.

4. **What happens after Minneapolis declares a snow emergency?**
   - The day a snow emergency is declared, parking is not allowed on snow emergency routes after 9 p.m. Snow Emergency routes are main streets that are designated with blue street name signs or a red Snow Emergency Route sign. While these streets are being plowed, you can park on either side of streets that are NOT Snow Emergency routes.
• At 8 a.m. the next day, day two of the snow emergency begins. Do not park on the even side of non-snow emergency routes, and do not park on either side of parkways.
• The following day, at 8 a.m., day three of the snow emergency begins. Do not park on the odd side of non-snow emergency routes.
• You can park on a side of a street that has been fully plowed.

5. What exactly do you mean by “odd” and “even?”

• Determined by the last digit of a house number (show graphic)
• NOT related to the number of the street

6. How do you find out if a snow emergency has been declared for Minneapolis?

• Check local media
• Call 612-348-SNOW.
• Check the city of Minneapolis website – available in many languages
• Sign up for text message alerts and phone call alerts on the city of Minneapolis website
• Follow Minneapolis Snow Emergency on Facebook and Twitter

7. What happens if you don’t follow the snow emergency rules?

• Your car could get ticketed and towed
• You can call 311, or (612) 673-3000 to find out if your car was towed by the city.
• You will have to pay a ticket and a towing charge, and possibly a storage fee to get your car back
• The towing and ticket charges are more than $150.

For St. Paul guest

8. When does St. Paul declare a snow emergency?

• Usually after a 3-inch snowfall, or accumulations of 3 inches
• By 3 p.m. the day the snow emergency will begin

9. How do you find out if a snow emergency has been declared for St. Paul?

• Check local media, including cable channel 18
• Check St. Paul’s Web page – available in many languages
• Follow the city of St. Paul or St. Paul Public Works on Twitter
• Call (651) 266-7569 (PLOW)
• Sign up to get a text message alert

10. What happens after St. Paul declares a snow emergency?
Starting at 9 p.m., don’t park on streets that say “Night Plow Route” or “Night Plow Route This Side Of Street” until they’ve been plowed to the curb.

Call the city if you’re unsure if your street has been completely plowed.

11. Can you leave your car on the non-snow emergency streets the next day?

- No. During the day, don’t park on the non-posted routes until they have been plowed to the curb.
- Those streets do not have red snow emergency signs.
- During the day, you can park on a night plow routes that has been plowed to the curb.

12. What happens if you don’t move your car when the snow emergency takes effect?

- Your car could get tagged or towed.
- If you live north of I-94, your car will be taken to the impound lot across from the State Fairgrounds.
- If you live south of I-94, your car will be taken to the impound lot on Barge Channel Road—unless it’s full. Call first.
- You will have to pay a ticket and a towing charge, and possibly a storage fee.

For both guests

13. What’s the best advice for people who park on the street?

- Stay informed.
- When it snows, check to see if a Snow Emergency is declared.
- If you’re leaving town during the winter and have a car parked in the street, leave your keys with a friend or neighbor so they can move your car if there is a Snow Emergency.

14. What do you think is the best way to stay informed?

- Go to your city’s website.
- Call the phone hotline.
- Watch the local media.

15. Who’s responsible for making sure I know the parking rules?

- You are.
- When there’s snow, use one of the many ways to stay informed.
- Help your neighbors/elders/seniors stay informed.