

# ECHO Script

## *Emergency and Community Health Outreach*



Final Script  
Oct. 6, 2011

### ECHO Show "Understanding Snow Emergency" Word count: 420

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When you're living somewhere new, there are always lots of things to learn. Sometimes those things have to do with living in a new climate.

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In Minnesota, we get a lot of snow, and when we get quite a bit at once, both Minneapolis and Saint Paul may declare Snow Emergencies. That means you'll need to follow Snow Emergency parking rules so the snowplows can clear the streets—and, so your car won't get towed.

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It's important that city streets are cleared of snow as soon as possible, so emergency vehicles and other drivers can get through.

When people move their cars, the city can plow better, more safely, and faster.

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You can plan ahead by learning the parking rules *before* the snow comes. Once you know the rules, you can look for alternate parking that you can use during a snow emergency.

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Because when a city declares a snow emergency, certain parking rules go into effect. Minneapolis and Saint Paul have different rules, and it's important to know *your* city's rules so your car doesn't get towed.

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If it's snowing, there are many ways to find out if a Snow Emergency has been declared. In Minneapolis, you can find out where you're allowed to park after a snowfall by calling (612) 348-SNOW or (612) 348-7669. You can also get information at [www.minneapolismn.gov/snow](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow).

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If you live in St. Paul, you can find out about winter parking by calling 651 266-PLOW, or 651 266 7569. You can also go to St. Paul's website at [www.stpaul.gov/snow](http://www.stpaul.gov/snow). Both cities' websites offer the information in many different languages.

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In both cities, Snow Emergency parking rules start at 9 p.m. on the day the Snow Emergency is declared. If you don't follow the parking rules, your car can be ticketed and towed to an impound lot, and it can be inconvenient and expensive to get it back.

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Snow emergencies happen in several phases, so you may have to move your car more than once to make sure it's safe from getting towed. Check back with your city's hotline or website to make sure your car is in a place where parking is allowed.

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It's best to plan ahead by knowing the parking rules before the snow falls, and then watch the media to find out if a snow emergency has been declared. If you are aware of where you can and cannot park after a snowfall, you'll save yourself a lot of stress and a lot of money.