UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA KEARNEY

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**Responsible University Office:**
*Facilities Management and Planning*

**Responsible University Administrator:**
*Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance*

**Policy Contact:**
*Michael Cremers, Director of Facilities*
*cremersmr@unk.edu*

# Snow and Ice Removal

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## Scope

This policy affects the accessibility of parking lots, sidewalks, and campus facilities during the winter season.

## Policy Statement

The overriding goal of Facilities Management and Planning in the removal of snow is to make University facilities, sidewalks and parking lots safe and accessible during the winter season.

## Reason for Policy

Snow and ice are a reality in Nebraska. Conditions vary greatly from one storm to another and from day to day. A key element in implementing an efficient snow and ice control program is receiving timely and accurate weather information. At UNK, Facilities Management and Planning (FMP) monitors local weather forecasts and also draws on information from UNK Police Department and Buffalo County Emergency Management. In those instances where large amounts of snow are received and/or where snow is accompanied by strong winds alternate emergency procedures may be implemented to address the unique circumstances.

# Procedures

## Prioritization

The Grounds Manager has been appointed to act as the lead for all snow and ice removal efforts. Primary responsibility for snow and ice removal rests with the Exterior Area Teams.

Additional caution is advised with using University facilities during the winter season because of the daily potential for hazardous conditions caused by snow, ice, wind, and freezing temperatures.

In practice many of these areas may have snow removed simultaneously to best utilize resources. In general, snow removal is prioritized in the following order:

1. Accessible Pedestrian Areas
2. Remaining Pedestrian Areas
3. Parking Areas
4. Campus Roads

## Pedestrian Areas

FMP maintains sidewalks, plaza areas and other pedestrian thoroughfares. Our goal is to have primary access routes into each of our facilities plowed prior to 8:00 AM the morning following the end of the storm, if weather conditions permit. In general, sidewalks and pedestrian areas are cleared in the following priority order:

1. Accessible walking paths (please refer to the Campus Accessibility Map)
2. Residence halls
3. Academic buildings
4. Non-academic buildings

Weather and ground conditions can lead to melting snow and re-freezing problems on a daily basis. Pedestrians should dress and act accordingly.

## Parking Areas

University parking areas are designed to incorporate landscaping in adjacent areas. This occasionally necessitates the storage of snow in the parking lots and the loss of some number of parking spaces until the snow can be hauled away. In general, parking lots are cleared in the following priority order:

1. Accessible spaces
2. Commuter lots
3. Faculty/Staff lots
4. Residence Hall lots
5. Visitor parking

Every reasonable effort will be made to open parking lanes to allow traffic flow in parking lots. After the storm, certain parking lots may be closed for cleaning. In these cases,

FMP will work with UNK Police Department and Residence Life to notify car owners to move their vehicles temporarily.

Institutional Roads

The goal is to make all institutional roads safe and accessible for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions during and after a storm if reasonably possible.

Ice

Ice is generally addressed by the application of various ice melt chemicals as well as gravel and sand. Materials such as salt, sand, calcium and magnesium chloride are used to control snow and ice while minimizing damage to the University's infrastructure and landscape.

Exterior Area Team Members are assigned specific areas on the campus. Each Team Member regularly inspects their area to assure that proper steps have been taken to provide a safe travel route for our customers. They are assisted by Interior Area Team Members who monitor conditions around their assigned buildings.

However, because of the relatively low number of Exterior Area Team Members and large size of the campus they cannot be everywhere at once. In addition, the frequent freeze/thaw cycle means that there is often ice in locations that were previously clean or had been treated.

If the public spots ice or other unsafe conditions on campus, please report these to Facilities Service Desk, 865.1800, as soon as possible.

In Case of Property Damage

During the course of operations any given winter, damage to property may occur. Repairs will be made as soon as weather permits and materials are available.

If University snow removal operations cause damage to property owned by another person, the individual should report the damage to UNK Police Department and file a claim with UNK Business Services.

In Case of Personal Injury

Any personal injuries should be reported immediately.

University Employees (Workers Comp): Meredith DeHaven - 308-865-8516

Non-Employees: Business Services - 308-865-8448

Assistance to Private Property Owners

In general, no University personnel or vehicles will be used to start, push, pull or tow stranded vehicles.

Departure From Procedure

The University recognizes that conditions may be so unusual or unexpected that a departure from these procedures should be authorized. Therefore, when such conditions warrant, the Grounds Manager in consultation with the Director of Facilities Management

and Planning , may order a departure from these procedures when, in their opinion, conditions require such action.

No Duty or Right Created

The purpose of these operational procedures is to establish goals and guidelines for University employees regarding snow and ice control. It is not to be construed to create any additional duty to any individual, person, or entity. This document does not provide any special protection or service to any individual or group. No additional rights shall be granted to any individual or entity simply by adoption of this policy. This document may be affected in total or in part, as a result of acts of God, equipment breakdown, weather conditions, and inadequacy of equipment, shortage of personnel, state, federal or municipal regulations and any other unforeseen, uncontrolled or unanticipated acts.

Due to weather-related conditions such as piled snow, melting and re-freezing, bare pavement should NOT be an expectation in these areas and motorists and pedestrians should dress and act accordingly.

## Additional Contacts

| ***Subject*** | ***Contact*** | ***Phone*** | ***Email*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grounds Manager | Alex Zabel | 308-865-1800 | zabela@unk.edu |
| Facilities | Service Desk | 308-865-1800 | facilities@unk.edu |
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## Related Information

https://www.unk.edu/campus-map/

## History

Minor Revisions 11/20/2025