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For immediate release

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### **With more than 2,000 miles of streets to plow, Minneapolis and Saint Paul need residents' help**

*Both cities offer a variety of tools to help people avoid a ticket and tow*

Nov. 25, 2008 (MINNEAPOLIS) Today, Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, and Public Works directors from both cities joined together to help residents get ready for snow season. When the snow flies, City Public Works crews have enormous jobs to do, with more than 2,000 miles of streets that need to be cleared curb-to-curb. When there is a significant snowfall, Saint Paul and Minneapolis declare Snow Emergencies. Although Snow Emergency rules differ in the two cities, they both call on residents to follow the parking rules so plows can do the best job possible clearing snow from city streets.

Snow is one of the reasons we love wintertime in Minnesota, but it also brings us a special challenge said Mayor Rybak. When we have snowfall, we need everyone working together to get our streets cleared. Even though Minneapolis and Saint Paul run our Snow Emergencies a little differently from each other, our goals are the same. Every time we think we may have to declare a Snow Emergency, we talk to Saint Paul. By coordinating together, both our cities can get the big job of clearing the streets done successfully.

Winter is a great time in Minnesota. But unshoveled sidewalks and unmoved cars during snow emergencies present a real barrier for many in our community, especially seniors, the disabled, and crews trying to clear streets, Mayor Coleman said. By working together to shovel sidewalks and taking advantage of the snow emergency notification systems, winter can be a season of fun and not a season of headaches.

Contrary to what many people assume, Snow Emergencies are not moneymakers for cities. Towing and impounding vehicles is expensive for each of the cities, so its in everyones interest to help people follow the parking rules and avoid a ticket and tow. Thats why both Minneapolis and Saint Paul offer residents, workers, and visitors a number of tools to help them learn when Snow Emergencies are declared, and what to do when they are.

#### **Saint Paul snow season facts & figures**

- **Online Information.** [www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov) has information on snow removal in 14 different languages.

- **Getting the Word Out.** Each year, Saint Paul delivers 30,000 flyers with snow removal information in 4 different languages to residents in the highest tag and tow areas.
- **Snow Emergency Declaration.** The City declares a Snow Emergency after snowfalls of 3" or more OR an accumulation of 3" of snow over several days.
- **Not a Small Task.** Saint Paul plows 870 miles of streets to the curb on each snow emergency.
- **Snow Emergency Costs:** An average snow emergency costs the City \$500,000.
- **Curious about Minneapolis?** Saint Paul has a link to Minneapolis' snow emergency website on its website to facilitate better communication.
- **Tag & Tow Information.** Saint Paul has averaged nearly 3,500 tickets and 820 tows per snow emergency in the past 5 years.
- **SnowAlert.** Join over 35,000 others who have signed up on our website to be notified of snow emergencies via e-mail or text message.
- **Snow Hotline.** Residents may call 651-266-PLOW for 24-hour up-to-date information on snow emergencies.
- **Snow Removal Guidelines.** By Saint Paul City Code, property owners are responsible for removing snow and/or ice from public sidewalks within 24 hours after the snow and/or ice has ceased to fall, gather, or accumulate.

### **Minneapolis snow season facts & figures**

- **It's a big job!** During a Snow Emergency, Minneapolis crews plow 1,100 miles of streets curb-to-curb, along with clearing 400 miles of alleys. Altogether, plows clear 3,200 lane miles, enough to plow a lane from Minneapolis to Anchorage, Alaska.
- **Snow Emergency mailer.** At the beginning of each snow season, Minneapolis mails a Snow Emergency flier to all 175,000 households in the city. It explains the parking rules for each day of a Snow Emergency, and how to get more information.
- **Snow Web page.** The City's snow Web page, [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow), contains all the Snow Emergency parking rules and other details about the City's efforts to keep roads clear and safe during the winter. The site also has detailed Snow Emergency information in Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Oromo, Vietnamese and Laotian.
- **Interactive maps.** The City's Web site has interactive neighborhood maps that show where you can and can't park each day of a Snow Emergency. Just enter your address or select a neighborhood to get a detailed map. To access the maps, just go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow) and click on "street lookup."
- **Automated phone calls.** The day a Snow Emergency is declared, Minneapolis makes about 100,000 automated phone calls to residents, alerting them that a Snow Emergency has been declared. To add your cell phone to the call list, just visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow). Non-English-speaking people can sign up to get their phone calls in Spanish,

Somali, or Hmong by visiting [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow) and looking for the sign-up page under their respective language pages.

- **Snow hotline.** The City's 24-hour snow hotline, 612-348-SNOW, gives callers the latest updates. This year, for the first time, Snow Emergency information is available in a number of languages by calling just one number. Callers to the hotline can hear information in English, Spanish, Somali, or Hmong. Callers who need more information can just dial 311 for assistance.
- **E-mail and text message alerts.** More than 18,000 folks have signed up to get e-mail or text message notifications when a Snow Emergency is declared. Anyone can add their e-mail address to the list or request a text message to their cell phone by visiting [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/snow).
- **Tickets and tows.** Residents do a good job of following the parking rules (95 percent of cars are parked according to Snow Emergency rules), but during a Snow Emergency, as many as 1,500 vehicles or more can be towed to the Impound Lot.

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