



In this newsletter, we will be discussing the following:

- Snow Removal
- Winter Home Maintenance Tips
- Safe Winter Driving
- Post Falls City Code
- Christmas Tree Pickup
- District Crime Stats



Block Watch

JANUARY 2016

Winter is here and along with winter comes the snow, ice and the cold weather. Remember, what snow falls on your property is your snow, and not something you can “give” to your neighbor or put out onto the street.

Chapter 10.48 SNOW REMOVAL

10.48.010: PLOWING OR DEPOSITING SNOW, DIRT OR DEBRIS ON PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY PROHIBITED:

- It is unlawful for any operator of snow removal equipment or the owner of any land upon which snow removal equipment is operated to place or otherwise permit, sanction, approve or cause the placement of any fallen snow onto public property or rights of way upon its removal from privately owned lands..
- Depositing or causing to be deposited dirt or debris within the public rights of way without the permission of the city is declared to be a nuisance and the responsibility of the person making such deposit to immediately remove the dirt from the right of way. (Please refer to the complete codes for additional information)



Winter Home Maintenance Tips



Be Energy Efficient

Since your heating system will be running constantly throughout the winter, remember to change out your HVAC filters every month. Inspect the insulation in your attic and crawlspace. Warm air rises and leaves the house through the roof, so you should focus on insulation in your ceilings. Seal areas around recessed lights, the attic hatch, and plumbing vents that may be allowing warm air from the living space below to enter the attic. Proper attic ventilation, adequate attic insulation, and a tight air barrier between the attic and the interior of the house will work together to prevent ice dams.

If you don't have double-paned windows, remove the screens and install storm windows to ensure that the heat stays in and the cold stays out. If you're on a tight budget, pick up an inexpensive plastic-film sheet kit from your local hardware store. These will only last one season, but they do help with energy efficiency and are able to halt the cold flow of winter drafts. If you have a fireplace, burning firewood is another way to save energy costs. When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly – about an inch – and close doors leading into the room. That will prevent the fire from drawing warm air out of the rest of the house and replacing it with cold air.

And remember to store your firewood in a dry place at least 30 feet from your home to avoid a fire hazard.

Protect Your Pipes

Pipes located in attics, crawl spaces, basements, and near outer walls can be susceptible to freezing in extreme temperatures. When the forecast calls for unusually cold temperatures, let water drip from hot and cold faucets overnight. Also try keeping cabinet doors open to allow warm air to circulate in places like below sinks. If you open the cabinet doors, be sure to remove anything inside the cabinets that may pose a safety hazard to children, such as household cleaners. For exposed pipes in your attic, basement, or crawlspaces, add extra insulation around them. View the [tips to avoid frozen pipes](#) for more information.

Be Ready For An Emergency

Blackouts and snow-ins can occur during winter months, so take a moment to prepare yourself and your family for such emergencies. Having the following items ready will help you make it through safely.

- Flashlights
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food items
- Blankets
- Phone numbers for your utility companies
- Battery backup to protect your computer and other important electronic equipment
- First-aid kit

If you have an **emergency generator**, make sure you have gasoline stored and available to fuel it.

Holiday Decorations

'Tis the season to be festive, but remember to stay safe with your holiday decorations. Inspect the wires of your light display before switching them on: They may be frayed and present an electrical fire hazard. Same goes for the Christmas tree inside; always check the light strands for any sign of wear-and-tear from being in storage. If you have a real Christmas tree, keep it watered, since dry trees catch fire easier. Check with your local municipality for instructions on how to dispose of the tree once the new year arrives.

Winter Yard Care

Even with the cold weather conditions, your yard still needs to be maintained. Make sure tree and shrub branches are well away from the house and windows. Icy conditions can cause branches to break and damage your home. Walk around your home and survey the roof to see if any **ice dams** have formed; call a contractor if you suspect this is the case. As you walk around your house, check the foundation for small cracks or openings where mice or other pests can tunnel in. Winter is when they seek the warmth of your house, so seal up any possible entrances. While you're outside, clear snow off gas meters and away from basement windows and your dryer exhaust vent



(See more at: <https://learningcenter.statefarm.com/residence/maintenance/winter-maintenance-tips-for-your-home/#sthash.iBc0w90l.dpuf>)

Post Falls Police Department - 1717 E Polston Ave., Post Falls, Idaho 83854 (208)773-3517

Safe Winter Driving



Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency.

The three P's of Safe Winter Driving:

PREPARE

Maintain Your Car: Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.

Have On Hand: flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. *For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.*

Stopped or Stalled? Stay in your car, don't overexert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

Plan Your route: Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/ directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice Cold Weather Driving!

- * During the daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
- * Know what your brakes will do: *stomp on antilock brakes, pump on non-antilock brakes.*
- * Stopping distances are longer on water-covered ice and ice.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- * Buckle up and use child safety seats properly.
- * Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag.
- * Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat.

PREVENT CRASHES

- * Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving.
- * Slow down and increase distances between cars.
- * Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road.
- * Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible.
- * If you are planning to drink, designate a sober driver.

(U.S.Department of Labor / www.osha.gov)

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Post Falls Parking Regulations



Parking issues are a continuous issue in Post Falls, as well as other communities. The parking regulations for Post Falls are designed to allow for safe passage as well as keep our community an attractive place to live, work and play. A few of the parking regulations are listed below:

10.20.020: PARKING REGULATIONS; GENERALLY: A. No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with law or the directions of a police officer or traffic control device, in any of the following circumstances:

1. At any location where a traffic control device restricting or prohibiting parking has been posted by authority of the city engineer, with concurrence by the mayor. Written record of such action shall be maintained in the records of the city clerk, accompanying the original of the ordinance codified in this section, sections 10.20.010 and 10.20.090 of this chapter;
2. On or across a public sidewalk, pedestrian path, bicycle path or similar nonvehicular right of way, or between the curb and sidewalk or within an area improved on the right of way for storm water drainage;
3. In front of, or otherwise blocking use of, a public or private driveway or street access from lands adjoining a public street;
4. Within an intersection of public rights of way;
5. On, or impeding use of, or within twenty feet (20') of, a pedestrian crosswalk or the point of intersection of public rights of way measured at the curb line for streets so developed, provided that this limitation shall not apply to vehicles in public service which may park within six feet (6') of such points;
6. Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
7. On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
8. Upon a bridge or other elevated structure upon a street or highway or within a highway tunnel;
9. At any place where official signs prohibit stopping;

10. In an alley so as to hinder or block traffic;

11. In a marked fire lane on the site of any structure open for public access or where access restrictions have been imposed by the fire department.

10.20.030: PARALLEL:

Motor vehicles shall be parked parallel to the curb on all streets and avenues, with the right hand wheels within eighteen inches (18") of the curb. Motor vehicles shall not be parked within thirty feet (30') of the corner of the curb or edge of road or within fifteen feet (15') of any fire hydrant. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle on any portion of any street where the curb is painted yellow, except as provided herein.

A. Exceptions:

1. On one-way streets, motor vehicles shall be parked parallel to the curb on all streets and avenues with either the right hand wheels or the left hand wheels within eighteen inches (18") of the curb.
2. Angled parking is allowed at locations where angled parking spaces are designated by the city by the use of pavement markings or in areas where the designated parking area is designated by a modification of the curb line that provides a recessed parking area.
3. No parking of any type will be allowed when signage is posted prohibiting parking. (Ord. 1154 § 1, 2008)

10.20.050: TIME LIMITATION:

No vehicle, including, major recreational vehicles or equipment, shall be parked continuously at the same location or combination of locations within the same block on any public street or public alley on any public street or alley in the city for more than twenty four (24) hours. For the purpose of this chapter, "major recreational vehicles and equipment" are defined as including, but not limited to, boats and boat trailers, pickup campers or coaches (designed to be mounted on automotive vehicles), motorized dwellings, and tent trailers. (Ord. 1201, 2010)

10.20.060: PRIVATE PROPERTY:

A. It is unlawful for any person to park upon the private property of another without the consent of the owner of such property, and the police department is authorized to remove the vehicle therefrom and cause the same to be stored, following the procedures under title 49 of the Idaho Code, provided the owner of the private property has first complained against the owner or operator of such vehicle.

B. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle in the front yard of a residence that is not an improved driveway. For the purpose of this section, an improved driveway shall be an off street vehicle access to a parcel of land from a private or public street or alley constructed of compacted gravel, grass pavers, brick pavers, asphalt or concrete.

C. Automotive vehicles or trailers of any kind or type without current license plates shall not be parked or stored on any residentially zoned property unless stored in a completely enclosed building or carport. One boat and/or one recreational vehicle without licenses may be stored in the side or rear yard, but not in any front yard.





Press Release

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● For immediate release

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Christmas Tree Pickup Scheduled

Saturday, January 9th, Post Falls Sanitation will be providing Christmas tree pickup for Post Falls residents. Trees must have all of the decorations removed and be cut into bundled 4-foot lengths, or less, and placed curbside **before** 6:30 AM. This special pick-up service is for trees only, garbage will not be collected during this time, and call-backs for additional pick-ups cannot be accommodated.



