

WEATHER RELATED EMERGENCIES-WINTER TIPS

The arrival of Autumn means leaves falling, and this is the most common cause of catch basin and culvert drainage problems, causing inconvenience and, at times, costly damage. Whatcom County Public Works, Maintenance and Operations Division would like to remind County residents that maintenance of driveway culverts is the property owner's responsibility. Some simple preventative maintenance of driveway culverts before the heavy Fall and Winter rain, can help property owners avoid potentially serious problems. Check culvert openings for any debris, especially leaves, weeds, brush and tree limbs. Rocks, dirt, and even toys can block culverts.

Checking and clearing your driveway culverts can make a big difference in improving drainage during storms, saving you time, trouble and money. If you have any questions, call Whatcom County Maintenance and Operations at 676-6759 or 380-8111.

To prepare for the winter months be sure to have your vehicles mechanically prepared. Four-wheel drive, all wheel drive or higher clearance vehicles will greatly reduce problems on secondary roads; have tire chains or traction tires readily available. Planning ahead is important! Have food, water and medical supplies in your home to last up to one week. Be aware of weather reports to plan ahead for even longer periods of time if a major storm is in the forecast.

When clearing your driveway and snow berm, please pile the snow to the left side as you face your house, especially as you get closer to the road. This will prevent the plow blade from pushing the material you just shoveled, back into your driveway again. Throwing snow onto the road also creates obstructions in the roadway and can create hazards to other motorists. Please be considerate of other motorists and pedestrians. Parking your vehicles in your driveway and off of the road also helps in the progress of the snowplow operators to complete their routes quicker and more efficiently.

More information relating to road closures and additional emergency information, please go to the Whatcom County Website : www.whatcomcounty.us

If you have any comments or concerns regarding these standards, please send written correspondence to the address listed above or by e-mail.