

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

www.snoco.org

 **Best wishes for a happy holiday season**

Friends,

I want to take a quick moment to wish you a very merry holiday season. With 2009 fast approaching, I know that many families are focused on what the year ahead will bring.

While the nation's economic issues have impacted Snohomish County, I know that we are well-equipped to work through whatever challenges the new year may bring. Through the strength of our community, we will find opportunity where others see obstacles and ensure our brightest days lay ahead.

I wish all of you well. My thoughts are with you and your families.

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon
County Executive

 **County crews work around-the-clock to make holiday travels more safe**

Since Saturday, Dec. 13, Snohomish County road crews have worked nonstop to clear more than 50,000 miles of road lanes inundated repeatedly with snow.

Crews have been working split 12-hour shifts since the storm began, covering more than 3,600 public road lane miles within Snohomish County. Those lanes have been plowed over with each new snow and ice fall, removing snow incrementally to near bare pavement conditions, only to have another wave of snow follow and accumulate again.

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How are we doing?

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S #407
Everett, WA 98201

Road crews also have spread a daily average of 800 tons of sand throughout the county, totaling approximately 7,000 tons of sand. These efforts, combined with plowing, have kept primary county roads and some secondary roads open with few – and short-lived – road closures.

“Keeping roads clear and safe is Snohomish County’s top priority right now,” County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “The dedication and hard work of these men and women, and in such frigid temperatures, is a testament to the fact that government makes a positive difference.”

About 30 plow/sander trucks and five graders have been dispersed to the field since snowfalls began more than one week ago, and more than 160 employees have been pulling 12-hour shifts since then. Crews will continue to work nonstop through the Christmas holiday.

“The men and women on these crews are holding up well despite the difficult conditions,” said Steve Thomsen, the county’s public works director. “The equipment also is handling well thanks to folks in fleet management.”

Finding a spot to clear snow is becoming difficult as piles are topping more than 5 feet in some areas. Reported drifts of 8 feet in east Snohomish County also have added unique challenges to plowing.

For residents, the basic message is the same: Be patient while work crews do their job. Stalled and stuck vehicles make it harder for plow trucks to clear snow safely.

“If you don’t need to be on the road, stay home,” said John Pennington, the county’s director of emergency management. “Weather conditions continue to change and that makes for very unsafe driving conditions right now.”

If you must drive, follow these basic tips:

- *Have your car winterized and make sure it is working properly. Install good winter tires.
- *Keep a shovel, windshield scraper and blankets inside your vehicle.
- *Maintain at least a half tank of gas at all times.
- *Check road conditions before departing.
- *Let others know of your route and your estimated time of arrival.

Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

Or, [send me an email](#).

And please be sure to [visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

*Allow extra time and extra distance between vehicles.

The county's departments of Emergency Management and Human Services continue to coordinate with local agencies to maintain services to vulnerable populations within Snohomish County.

Who to call:

* Road-plowing/weather-related issues: 425-388-5060

* Human services needs including shelters, some food needs:
211

* Life-threatening emergencies only: 911

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.