



NEWS ADVISORY

March 1, 2014

For immediate release

City Storm Response Saturday Update

The City of Missoula's snowplow crews are moving into residential streets at mid-day Saturday. Missoula Police Department officers will monitor top-priority, major streets and notify plow crews of new drifting that needs attention. We will continue to adjust our storm response as conditions change.

City staff members are monitoring the Street Maintenance Division phone line at 552-6360, where citizens are reporting problem snow areas. Callers will hear back as soon as is practical. Snowplow crews must prioritize major streets to keep them open for emergencies. Missoula continues to receive snow, and strong winds continue to cause drifting. Citizens with emergency needs should call 911. The best course is to please stay home.

More news:

- Steep slopes on the lower flanks of Mount Jumbo and Mount Sentinel make them very avalanche-prone in conditions like we have experienced in the last 48 hours. To protect public safety, the Mayor has decreed that all of Mount Jumbo and all City-owned lands on Mount Sentinel are closed to all public recreation until conditions improve. As always, Mount Jumbo has been closed since Dec. 1 to protect wintering elk. Anyone who sees people violating this closure should call 911 immediately.
- Mountain Line buses continue to run for free through Saturday. A number of detours and route adjustments are in place. Do not rely on the mobile app; visit www.mountainline.com for exact routes.
- The Missoula Police Department would like to hear from anyone with information about the cause of Friday evening's avalanche on Holly Street. Please call detectives Dean Chrestenson at 552-6075 or Guy Baker at 552-6284 or call Missoula Crime Stoppers at 721-4444.

- Currents Aquatics Center will be open noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and resume regular hours on Sunday.
- Mayor John Engen thanks citizens for their prudence and patience, City staff members for their hard work and especially the citizens and emergency responders who worked to rescue the Holly Street avalanche victims.

He wrote to all City staff on Saturday morning: "I wish every citizen we serve could have been in my shoes yesterday watching the folks who work for the City of Missoula take care of the public's business with dedication, competence, cooperation and professionalism."

- The National Weather Service has issued a windchill warning through 8 a.m. Sunday:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?site=mso&smap=1&textField1=46.87222&textField2=-113.99306#.UxIsftJDG70>

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