

PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSE TO THE 2009 BLIZZARD

The city declared a Snow Emergency beginning on Friday Dec 18 at 7:00pm. Eighteen Public Works crew workers, assisted by 1 independent contractor, worked over 85 continuous hours in an effort to keep up with the 2"-3" rate of accumulation. The crew was organized into (2) 12-hour opposing shifts of 8 crew workers and 1 mechanic during the day and 10 crew workers with 1 mechanic during the night. Many crew workers worked over 24 hours straight with less than 3 hours of sleep. Some, who live outside the immediate area, slept at the Public Works Building or at one of the city-owned houses where 4 mattresses and a cot were in place to accommodate the changing shifts.

Snow Emergency routes were kept clear and passable throughout the duration of the storm. Side streets were more difficult to maintain due to traffic flow and packed snow that had to be removed in some cases, with backhoes rather than snow plows. By Monday morning, the Snow Emergency had been lifted and most streets were passable by motorists. Several residents called to congratulate the crew on a job well done. A few plumbing/electrical contractors who were working throughout the metro area, called in to say that of all the local jurisdictions, Manassas Park had the best road conditions (side streets included) in Northern Virginia.