

Weekend dump forces plows back onto main roadways

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City snow removal crews have gone through most residential streets once, but the completion of Round 2 was put on hold Monday.

The relentless snowfall through the weekend prompted the city to divert plows and sanders from residential streets and back onto major roadways.

"The snow from the weekend put a crimp in our plans for plowing residential streets, but our plows and sanders are continuing to work around the clock. They are on collector bus routes during the day and the main arteries at night," said Bob Dunford, the city's director of roadway maintenance.

Dunford hopes to get plows and sanders back in residential areas as soon as possible, maybe even Tuesday, but he's taking a wait-and-see approach.

"Early in the morning, around 6 a.m., we hope to know if we can return to residential streets," he said. If it's a go, crews could be back blading neighbourhood streets by seven.

Dunford said there has been some complaints from residents about massive windrows being left behind after plows and graders have cleaned residential streets, but said the city doesn't have the equipment or dumping grounds needed to move all of it.

The city is committed to blade a level snow pack along residential streets, he said. "We want to have a level driving service available for drivers, and our goal is a snow pack below five centimetres."

So far, there have been no reports of fire trucks or police vehicles getting stuck in residential streets.

Ambulances have experienced "a few issues with the snow, but there have been no incidents where patient care was significantly delayed," Alberta Health Services spokesperson Kerry Williamson said Monday.

Garbage-truck operators are "dealing with the most challenging working conditions they've faced in years," stated a news release Monday afternoon.

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