



Winter Weather Events How Hillsborough Operates

Below is information on how the town operates during winter weather events. Please note that many people have a Hillsborough mailing address but do not live in town limits. To determine who provides services to your home, check the [Jurisdiction and Service Areas](#) webpage.

To learn more about Hillsborough's winter weather operations, see:

- Winter weather operations [video](#).
- [Street Maintenance](#) webpage, specifically on snow and ice removal and state-maintained streets.

Curbside collections

Hillsborough will halt curbside collections of trash, brush, bulk items and loose leaves if weather conditions prevent collection trucks from operating safely. Service for garbage collection will be given priority when collections resume. Orange County provides collection of recyclables. See the [Orange County website](#) for changes in its services.

Snow and ice removal

Plowing is conducted to ensure emergency responders have safe and timely access. Public Works employees monitor snowfall on pavement for when and how to plow:

- Employees plow all town-maintained streets, giving first priority to the town's bridges, emergency services and the county refueling station within town limits.
- During heavy snow events, employees concentrate all efforts on keeping the bridges, emergency services and the county refueling station clear until conditions allow them to plow the remaining town-maintained streets within the town limits.
- Plowing is discontinued if it is ineffective or creates more hazardous conditions.

To allow plowing, do not park vehicles on streets and do not attempt to pass a town vehicle that is plowing snow or spreading brine or salt.

The N.C. Department of Transportation maintains some roads in town and is responsible for snow removal on those streets, which include the town's main roadways. Some roads in town are privately owned and are not maintained by the town.

Town crews will shovel sidewalks and parking areas around town facilities as they are able. Property and business owners are responsible for snow and ice removal from sidewalks in front of structures they own or occupy and for their parking lots or their driveways, where snow may accumulate due to plowing.

If wintry weather occurs, sidewalks and roads may continue to have snow and ice after the event and can be hazardous, particularly in shaded areas. The town stores a small amount of ice melting material to use on hills, shady areas and key hazardous road intersections.

Parks and trails

Parks and greenways are not a priority for snow removal and will be closed in deteriorating conditions until staff determines they are safe. Please heed all safety signage and barricades and do not enter closed areas. Those who choose to use the town's parks and greenways do so at their own risk. Entering closed areas also puts others at risk and pulls emergency workers away from other duties.

Information sharing

The town provides information about services during inclement weather through the following means:

- Website: www.hillsboroughnc.gov
- Facebook: [@HillsboroughGov](https://www.facebook.com/HillsboroughGov)
- Instagram: [@HillsboroughGov](https://www.instagram.com/HillsboroughGov)
- Nextdoor: www.nextdoor.com/pages/town-of-hillsborough-2
- X: [@HillsboroughGov](https://twitter.com/HillsboroughGov)
- News releases: [Email Subscriptions](#) webpage to receive town news via email.

Answers to any frequently asked questions will be provided on the [Ready Hillsborough](#) page of the town's website, which includes emergency phone numbers and cold weather resources.

Any emergency notifications will be sent through the public alert and warning system [OC Alerts](#). OC Alerts is a partnership of the governments in Orange County and Orange Water and Sewer Authority. OWASA provides water service to the Carrboro and Chapel Hill community.

Emergency response

During winter events, the following phone numbers are used for assistance:

- Water emergencies: 919-732-3621 — to report water line breaks, sewer backups or spills, and similar emergencies to the Hillsborough Water Treatment Plant.
- Downed trees blocking a roadway or downed power lines: 911.
- Assistance for emergency and non-emergency needs that require law enforcement or other rescue workers: 911. Hillsborough police officers are dispatched only by calling 911.