

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACTS: Tom Hellen, Public Works Director
788-4221, ext. 14

Heather Dawson, City Administrator
788-4221, ext 18

SNOW EFFECTS ON CITY OF HAILEY – YEAR TO DATE REPORT

(Hailey, Idaho) – Hailey city officials estimate that city crews hauled over 750 end dump truck loads of snow off Main Street and side streets following the Christmas snowfall. Some new methods have been put in place this year to increase efficiency and reduce costs during the construction recession. City street department crewmen have been reduced from 8 to 4. Work formerly done by city employees is now contracted out to local construction companies. Local Option Tax funds were used to acquire a new snowblower and loader that are both more efficient and less subject to breakdown than the old equipment we used for years.

The table below illustrates that during the late December 2008 snowstorms, compared to the entire winter season two years ago, 45% more snow was removed in just two weeks from Hailey city streets. The cost per load, which includes city crewman salaries, fuel, equipment rental and contracts with local contractors, is 40% less. Not included are equipment repair costs which have decreased as a result of having newer equipment.

YEAR	TOTAL SNOWFALL	TRUCK LOADS HAULED	LABOR HOURS	COST	AVERAGE COST PER LOAD
2006-07	58"	526		\$62,307	\$118
2007-08	99"	1,282	2,909	\$111,782	\$ 87
2008-09 YTD	67"	942	893	\$65,338	\$ 70

Hailey's primary concern with snow removal is the overall safety for all citizens and drivers on our streets. A break in the weather will give city officials opportunity to evaluate and implement improvements to increase safety and convenience for residents and businesses.

During the intense Christmas Eve snowfall, a method which is not our usual practice was implemented to improve safety for residents and visitors, based on an assumption that Main Street businesses would be closed Christmas day. Snow was initially plowed to the side of the highway during the peak of the storm in order to maintain visibility on the highway. The same snow was then plowed back into Main Street during the night of December 25th and hauled away. Crews began hauling snow in the central core of downtown and worked north and south. Despite working 10 – 12 hours on Christmas night, the extreme amount of snow was not able to be fully cleared from all sidewalks and business parking areas on Main Street until the night of December 27th.

The snow load upon roofs is approximately 29 pounds per square foot. Building codes require roofs in Hailey to be constructed to hold 100 pounds per square foot. The City of Hailey website is a convenient place to check snow loads, where snow load numbers are posted under Top Pick on the home page at www.haileycityhall.org.

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