Ice and Snow Policy

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1. Methodology

Weather forecasts are studied during the day and gritting will be carried out during the late afternoon (grounds) and evening (protection - car parks) if there is a high likelihood of ice forming but little chance of significant amounts of rain falling overnight

Or

If rain is forecast during the evening/early hours which would render earlier gritting ineffective but icy conditions are either forecast or develop protection will begin gritting car parks/ticket machine areas access and priority routes at around 5-6 am. This decision will be taken by the SPO as a result of information provided by the BMS and email warning systems and importantly practical observations of conditions during the regular walking patrols carried out throughout the night. Grounds team will arrive one hour earlier than their contracted hours at 7 am, by prearrangement, and carry out their normal gritting operations. Cleaning staff will also begin gritting at 7.30 (7 am by pre-arrangement) and prioritise ramps and steps.

With this procedure in place it is expected that under normal conditions the campus priority routes and areas will have been gritted as far is reasonable practical by 8 am.

By having the protection services involved in the process it will allow the university to ensure it can react to situations that develop as a result of weather patterns changing rapidly overnight.

Snow clearance, where it is deemed necessary, will be co-ordinated by the grounds team but will be restricted to clearing and gritting routes, not large areas, and with knowledge of the forecast weather conditio*ns* i.e. temperatures rising quickly during the day. Other members of Estates may be co-opted to support this work.

If it is raining heavily salting may be delayed till it passes because the salt would be washed off. Because of this some areas may still be icy after rain.

We use rock salt which is also commonly called grit it works by being crushed into the surface and dissolves any moisture on the road surface to lower the freezing point. It will not work effectively unless it has been worked into the surface.

Research clearly shows that using large amounts of rock salt causes environmental damage. We therefore aim to treat or public areas with as little salt as possible and only as often as necessary.

2. Practical operations

The grounds team will take the lead in ensuring grit stocks are maintained at an appropriate level and that grit bins are checked maintained and refilled on the main campus areas. Nationwide limits on the availability of supplies are now commonplace and may mean that grit is rationed at times to ensure continuity of supply. In such circumstances priority will be given to high use routes and access points.

At Westwood Heath- the grounds team will grit the main access road to the pavilion and the central areas of the car park bays

Signage, - temporary signage is not deemed appropriate due to the campus location and open access. The University" message of the day" system will be used to remind people about adverse weather conditions and the need for care and attention.

Facility managers will be encouraged to review their buildings access arrangements during such periods of adverse weather and consider closing access to ramps and less used entrance points and using the main access point which is gritted. (disabled persons access excepted). Additionally the condition and location of any doormats will need to be kept under review due to slippery internal floors caused by people bringing in water and slush on their shoes

The grit bins around campus will be available for "self aid" use by others where there is a need or wish to grit areas in support of the normal operations or when the grounds staffs is not available. (facility managers will need to consider risk and COSHH assessments for such staff)

The University will utilise "metcheck" and similar weather forecast systems to support the BMS and visual checks to support this operation .

3. Routes for gritting

Protection services-

Will concentrate on Campus car parks and access roads to include ,

William Morris, entrance road /exit road
Student Centre access road from Gosford Street and car park
Jaguar entrance road and car park
Sports Centre car park
Rear access road to Maurice Foss and Graham Sutherland
Much Park street car park and access road to rear of SJL
Alma building all 3 car parks
William Lyons access road from Gosford Street
University Square
Entrance to abandon car park
Singer hall roads and car parks
NB multi story car park is covered by CV1 (2010/11) but can be supported if need arises

Grounds Team - Will concentrate on campus footway routes

Area 1 –Jaguar /Library block

The Priority route is the path from the rear access road of MF/GS continuing between AS and the N annexe block, in front of WL and out onto Gosford Street via the sloping path near the pelican crossing point.

Then

From the Gulson Road entrance near the Student Centre, along the front of the SC to the wide footpath with benches down to the library rear entrance, then from the library entrance to the entrance and steps of William Morris

Then all other footways in the block including delivery areas and metal steps

Area 2- Sir John Laing /GS/MF block

The priority route is the footway from Cox Street between MF and GS across the rear access road to the council car park .Then steps down to MF and the area in front of SU building.

Then all other footways in the block

Area 3 – Central campus

The priority route is

1 university square, (noting protection service input) including ramp and steps to

2 south side of AB including steps to Spirituality and faith centre,
3 north side of AB round to front of GE, entrance steps to JS and steps down to Cox Street
4 from AB across Churchyard down steps to rear of SU building
5 ramp from side of GE down to Cope Street
6 route from Priory Street to Cope street

Then all other footway areas

Area 4 Alma Singer

All 3 car parks starting with nursery, abandon car park ticket machine .singer hall all roads car parks and paths,

Campus cleaning team

Will concentrate on steps and ramps where mechanical spreading is not viable and also double check ticket machine points in car parks to ensure they are clear of ice.

The priority will be the ramps and steps across campus with one team member allocated to each of the areas additionally they will work with grounds to support and stand in for sickness and holiday etc .

4. Advice to users of the campus

The University offers the following general advice to staff, students and visitors on being aware of the surroundings during the winter months and ways to prevent slips and falls due to snow and ice. But be aware areas of Council owned land that may be on your route through campus ,it is not University land and may not have been be gritted by the council .The University will not grit these areas

To help prevent slips and falls

- Wear suitable foot gear
- Take small steps to keep your centre of balance under you
- Walk slowly –never run on icy ground keep both hands free for balance rather than in your pockets
- Use handrails from start to finish
- Avoid carrying loads on stairways; or carry loads you can see over
- Keep your eyes on where you're going
- Test potentially slick/slippery areas by tapping your foot on them
- Step- don't jump from vehicles and equipment
- Plan ahead and give yourself extra time to arrive somewhere
- Don't take shortcuts over snow plies areas where ice and snow removal isn't possible

Once you arrive indoors don't forget

- Use floor mats to remove moisture from footwear
- Don't allow umbrellas to drip water onto walking areas
- Report slippery floors

It is important for you to remember that even if it doesn't feel cold fresh ice could be forming. Hard surfaces are often colder than the air.
Also if it is raining heavily salting may be delayed till it passes because the salt would be washed off. Because of this some areas may still be icy after rain.