

UBC Facilities | Municipal & Custodial Services
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Snow and Ice

Operational Plan



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Facilities

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Acronyms

BRDF	Bioenergy Research Demonstration Facility
CCM	Centre for Comparative Medicine
CCP	Campus and Community Planning
CDM	Centre for Comparative Medicine
CEC	Campus Energy Centre
CMT	Critical Management Team
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
SL	Soft Landscape
SO	Street Operations
UBC	University of British Columbia
USB	University Services Building

1. Purpose

To ensure safe access across the University of British Columbia (UBC) Vancouver campus during snow and ice events through a coordinated response, prioritization, and resource management.

2. Campus overview and statistics

The UBC Vancouver (UBCV) campus is located at the western tip of the Point Grey Peninsula, situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{a} y \acute{a} m$ (Musqueam) people. UBCV operates with its own governance structure, as it is not part of the City of Vancouver. It is an “unincorporated area”, part of [Electoral Area A](#) within the Metro Vancouver Regional District, commonly known as the [University Endowment Lands \(UEL\)](#).

While the campus is primarily an academic site, it hosts 14,000 permanent residents, a regional hospital, and significant cultural destinations. Approximately 80,000 people visit UBCV per day with the majority of trips coming from public transit (~156,000 to/from daily trips).

UBCV sits at 80m above sea level and experiences a more pronounced microclimate with temperature, wind and moisture variability compared to other parts of Vancouver due to its geographic location and proximity to prevailing coastal weather patterns.

Statistics

- 3rd largest employment centre in BC
- 80,000 people on campus every day
- 13 residences with 13,500 people in student housing
- 14,000 permanent residents
- Emergency service hub – hospital, RCMP, Fire
- 110+ food outlets
- 400+ hectares of land
- 210+ academic buildings
- Major transit hub – busiest bus route in Metro Vancouver is the 99 B-Line

3. Policy and decision-making

[Policy SC5](#) - Extreme Environmental Conditions Policy provides details around Administrative Head of Unit responsibilities with regards to work arrangements during extreme environmental conditions and the requirement for necessary staff to report to work.

4. Service level standards

Response is guided by weather variables such as temperature, wind velocity and direction, moisture content, time of day and rate of accumulation.

Level 1: Same-day clearing for 4cm+ accumulation

Level 2: Cleared next day, within 24hrs after an accumulation has ended.

Level 3: Cleared based on capacity

Snow Removal	Level 1: During an accumulation	Level 2: Post accumulation	Level 3: Post accumulation
Frequency	Same day	Once level 1 is completed. Cleared the next day	Based on capacity and service requests outside of priority 1 and 2 areas.
Accumulation	4 cm of accumulation		
Surface Cover	Clean by noon the next day, if accumulation stops	Cleared the next day	May not be cleared at all
Sand	To reduce danger of injury and provide traction	To reduce ice accumulation and provide traction	No
De-icer	To reduce danger of injury and accumulation	To reduce ice accumulation	No

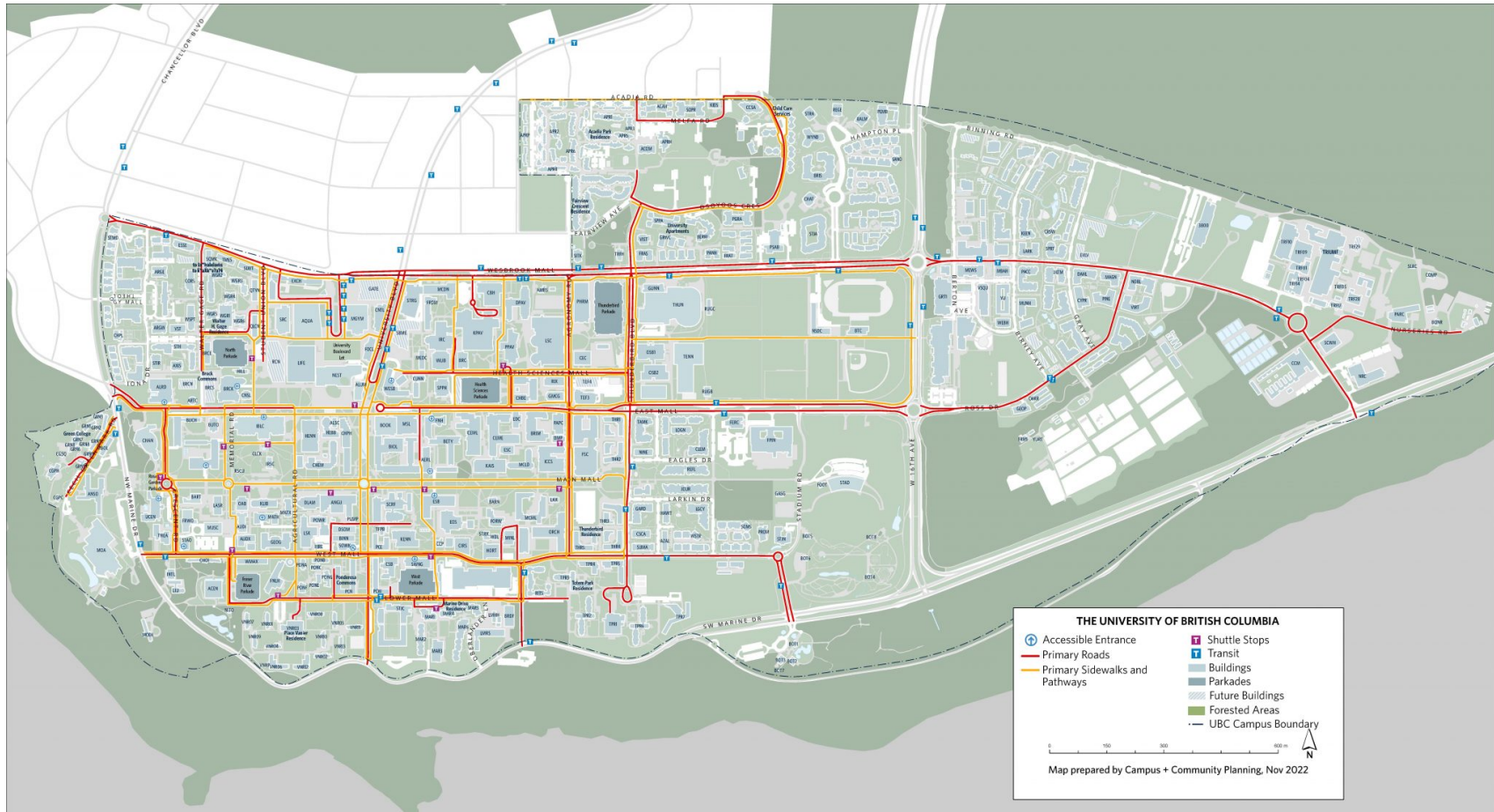
References: APPA grounds standards, University of Alberta grounds standards, Ministry of Transportation maintenance specifications

5. Criteria and application of materials

	Temperature	Precipitation	Accumulation	Application purpose
Brine (10-20% salt)	<2C	Pre-precipitation or no precipitation		Roads and sidewalks
Sand/Salt (max 50% blend)	<0 to -20C	Rain/snow forecast		Roads, pathways and sidewalks
Sand	<0 to -20C			Roads, pathways and sidewalks
Salt or De-icer	0C to -10C	In anticipation of snow and after snow falls		Stairs, building entranceways, roads, and sidewalks
Plowing		snow	>4 cm	

6. Priority clearing

Priorities are completed sequentially based on weather variability and resources availability.



Priority 1: Sustained event and limited resource availability

- **Critical Transportation routes:** emergency routes, primary roads/sidewalk, and major pathways
- **Transit:** public transit routes, hubs, and stops
- **Access to critical services (one accessible entrance and service road):** emergency services (Hospital, RCMP/Fire, BC Ambulance), animal care facilities (CCM, CDM, Modified Barrier Facility, Life Science Centre and Pharmaceutical Sciences), areas of refuge (Koerner Library, NEST), childcare, and emergency and extreme weather response operations (USB, Header House, water pump station, CEC, BRDF, C&CP, Life Building, Campus Security, and South Campus works yard access roads).

Note: During exam period, relevant buildings will be identified and added to the priority 1 list.

Priority 2

- Access to all other academic buildings (research, learning and teaching) - main and accessible entrances with connecting pathways, and emergency exits; and access to student housing and student services.

Priority 3

- Access to back of house (loading, receiving, waste and other)
- Secondary roads, sidewalks and pathways
- Select roads within UNA neighbourhood areas

Priority 4

- Other building entrances
- Tertiary pathways
- Special event needs

7. Roles and responsibilities

UBC Facilities' Municipal Services and Custodial Services teams lead the extreme weather response for UBCV campus. In the event that the Facilities team does not have the ability to maintain service, the protocol outlined in [Policy SC5](#) will be followed to determine operations on the UBCV campus.

8. Service impacts

Service disruptions are normal during extreme weather as staff are redeployed from their day-to-day assignments to support snow removal and ice mitigation measures. Staff may also have a difficult time getting to campus to perform their regular duties. Services such as waste collection, building cleaning or moving services will resume when resource become available.

For more information

In extreme weather situations, updates on campus conditions, classes or exams are posted on ubc.ca

For immediate assistance, inquires or to report an issue, please call the Facilities Service Centre at 604-822-2173 or email servicecentre.facilities@ubc.ca.

For information on extreme weather, please visit the [Safety & Risk Service's website](#).

Download the [UBC Safe Vancouver App](#) and turn on push notifications to receive immediate alerts and updates during extreme weather events.