

## **City reminds parents not to let children Play in snow piles near streets; clear fire hydrants**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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The City of Brookings reminds parents they should not let children play on or around the snow piles that are near city streets for their safety. Street Department crews are returning to the streets to remove some piles and widen street areas as much as possible to the curb.

“It is common winter fun for children to play on snow piles, build snow forts, and construct tunnels within the piles. But this fun can turn dangerous and even deadly as snow plows and snow blowers return to these piles for further snow removal maintenance,” according to Brookings City Manager Jeff Weldon. Every winter, nationwide, children are injured or killed as a result of playing on or in snow piles and are unseen by approaching snow removal operators.

Weldon said City crews will exercise caution while approaching each pile but parents need to be mindful of where their children are playing and prevent them from being on or near these piles.

City crews undertake further snow pile removal to widen streets, clear intersections, and increase visibility and safety for the traveling public. This process continues throughout the winter.

Residents are also asked to clear snow away from fire hydrants. While Brookings Municipal Utilities and the Brookings Fire Department install high-level flags to identify hydrants covered by snow, some hydrants are missed and some flags are lost to vandalism. Weldon asked neighbors to share this responsibility so the Fire Department does not lose valuable response time searching for, and digging out hydrants to protect life and property from fire.