

WISN.com

DPW To Step Up Pothole Patrol, Repairs

POSTED: 6:02 pm CST February 13, 2008

MILWAUKEE -- Milwaukee's budget director has agreed to hand over the Department of Public Works' \$320,000 budget increase early in the year to pay for additional crew needed to remedy the growing number of potholes on city streets.

The Milwaukee Common Council will also be called on to approve \$120,000 from the city's contingency fund to help make ends meet.

The move comes after aldermen called DPW to the pavement, figuratively, for the second time this winter.

First it was for how the department handled snow removal during the season's first winter blast, now they're angry for the way DPW is dealing with the potholes that snow has left behind.

Alderman said the number of craters has increased 45 percent since last year.

"Our crews, in my opinion, many of them, haven't been given proper training or don't have the work ethic to do a decent job to patch a pothole that will last anytime," 11th District Alderman Joe Dudzik said.

After one alderman called the street conditions "lousy," the DPW said it will call on its spring road maintenance crews two months early. A road patch material meant for summer will also be delivered early.

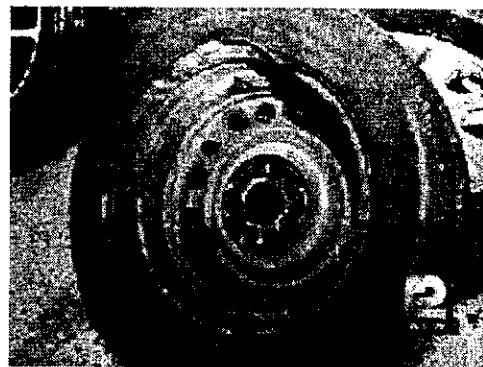
"It is very frustrating. We're frustrated as well. We're trying to deal with it with a staffing level that can't quite make it. That's why we're bringing back the additional staff we have," said Jeffrey Polenske with the Department of Public Works.

Aldermen even came armed to the meeting with solutions of their own, putting city workers on notice: if you're on duty and see a pothole, report it. They said that relying on reports from residents alone is not efficient. Alderman said the buck should stop and start with agency management.

"It is your responsibility to go out and spot-check the way these things are being done, in a timely fashion. And if not, take corrective action," 9th District Alderman Robert Puente said.

Residents that do spot potholes can report them to the city of Milwaukee by calling 414-286-CITY.

Related To Story



Video: DPW To Step Up Pothole Patrol, Repairs

Copyright 2008 by WISN.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

WISN.com

Panel To Look At Snow Removal, Pothole Repairs

POSTED: 6:30 am CST March 4, 2008
UPDATED: 6:43 am CST March 4, 2008

MILWAUKEE -- A discussion will take place Wednesday at City Hall on snow removal and pothole repairs in Milwaukee.

The Common Council's Public Works Committee wants to take a closer look at how the city clears snow from bus stops, curbs, crosswalks and metered parking spaces.

Committee members will also hear a report on how pothole repairs are coming along.

The city brought in 20 additional seasonal workers early to help patch up potholes.

To report a pothole call 414-386-CITY.

WISN.com

City Predicts Potholes Will Only Get Worse

POSTED: 10:24 am CDT March 27, 2008

MILWAUKEE -- The Milwaukee Department of Public Works said potholes will get worse with April's rain.

The DPW said it has received 5,100 calls for pothole patching so far this year. That is 2,400 more compared to the same time last year.

The street repair manager says with the harsh winter, they can't keep up.

"We've had to come to the same location a number of times. Every time it snows or rains and they plow, it knocks it out. So we're back filling them again and again," DPW street repair manager Daryl Sobczak said.

If you see a pothole, you can call 286-CITY to report it.

The DPW asks that people be patient.

Copyright 2008 by [WISN.com](http://www.wisn.com). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.