



# Fixed Outdoor Electric Deicing and Snow-Melting Equipment Guidesheet

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## Hank's Law –

After Zach Harper's beloved collie mix Hank unexpectedly died by electrocution in February of 2019 he wanted to know why. Hours went into researching what caused his four-legged companion to collapse on a downtown sidewalk that winter day. The answer was a faulty electrical de-icing system. It was an isolated incident and preventable.

In response to this tragic incident, Council Member Breean Beggs sponsored the "Hank's Law" ordinance requiring all electric snow melting equipment on public and private sidewalks be upgraded to include ground-fault protection to increase safety. In addition, a registration program will be implemented allowing the City to maintain a database of locations of outdoor electric de-icing and snow melting equipment and establish a monitoring program. This program was approved by Council in July 2019 to track outdated and current equipment in the hopes of preventing another tragic loss.

Citizens and building managers can schedule a free safety inspection with the City by calling 509.625.6300 to assess and register current or planned deicing and snow melting equipment.

## Guidelines and Procedures –

1. Call the City of Spokane, Development Services Center at (509) 625-6186 to schedule a no-cost safety inspection. Let the inspector know it is regarding de-icing or snow melt in the row.
2. Prior to your inspection you will need to have the registration and site plan that shows location of heating equipment in the right of way. Specify if you plan to keep or disconnect the system.
3. Inspector will verify your system and recommend safety upgrades if needed or verify disconnection.
  - a. If the system is in good condition and safe for use or if you choose to disconnect the system, we will keep your registration information on file.
4. If the system requires additional updates to bring it up to safety standards; additional work will be recommended. You must work with a licensed electrician to pull necessary permits and complete the work.
  - a. To facilitate the work - the City of Spokane will waive the minimum permit fee of \$65. Additional permit fees may apply.
5. A final inspection will be performed to verify safety and we will keep your system information on file. If you choose to disconnect your system in the future - please contact us to update the information.

All underground facilities (including those that are disconnected) which include de-icing overheating equipment in the right of way must register with the Inland Empire Utility Coordinating Council by RCW 19.122.020(27) and RCW 19.122.027(4).

Fines may be imposed, beginning at \$1,000 for not registering.

Contact [www.ieucc811.org](http://www.ieucc811.org) To register.