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Fred Sacco, interviewee

Steve Lay, host

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Steve Lay said over two feet of snow fell on the community last week. Responsibility for dealing with the snow fell on campus security and the physical plant crews. Traffic and parking problems kept Fred Sacco, security officer, very busy. Sacco said it was a sudden, abrupt storm with lots and lots of snow. People were coming to work in the morning to parking lots filled with snow. A lot of them weren't prepared for the amount of snow they got. There were a lot of calls to their office in the morning. They moved fifty or sixty cars on campus. They were out there pushing the vehicles. It is policy not to use their department vehicles to push, pull or jump start other vehicles. In the past they have destroyed their own department vehicles. On that day they had to use a lot of muscle power to push vehicles to get them going. Most of his problems were in the parking lot which had the lowest priority for snow removal. Physical plant had been running about twelve hour shifts. Their main concerns were with the main streets on campus. This holds true for downtown, too. Primary and secondary streets come first and then the parking lots and the parking areas come second. They have had additional snow in the last couple of days and they were still working on the main streets. He thinks they will be working up until Christmas Eve getting snow out of the parking lots.

Physical plant director, Carl Ednitoff, mobilized his crews to keep the campus accessible. They got started early enough to have most of the areas clear by the time the university opens in the morning. They started working at midnight. The areas that were clear at midnight had to be cleared by eight in the morning again. Their plan was to clear the main roads. Most of the walkways are cleared by students, but this time there were few available. The inside of the campus suffered a little more compared to a more normal timeframe. There was a lot of snow and it kept coming down. At one point the heavy equipment operated consecutively for almost thirty hours. The snow got very warm and heavy. Some of their equipment was not useful. Lay said the campus remained open and anyone who could get to the university could get around.