

## Pothole Patching

Potholes are common to areas of the country that generally have several freezing-thawing conditions during the winter months. A pothole starts as a small failure in the road surface where water has seeped through cracks and into the road base. As the water freezes it expands; then when it thaws a void is left under the asphalt. As vehicles are driven over the voided area the asphalt fails causing a pothole to form.

If a pothole does form, the crews will use two different types of material to fill the hole depending on the time of year. The preferred process for warm weather months is to use hot mix. Hot mix is asphalt that is heated to about 300 degrees which when cooled hardens to match the road. Unfortunately the asphalt companies do not start making hot mix until the end of April or early May so during the winter months the crews use Cold Mix. Cold Mix is asphalt that is warmed before being put in the hole, but because it is not heated to the required temperature it will not harden to the extent of Hot Mix. The result is temporary patches. As the Cold Mix warms when temperatures get higher and the sun shines brightly the mix becomes too soft to stay in place.

## Report Potholes

- To report a serious pothole on business days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., you may call 926-3202.
- If you encounter a serious pothole after regular working hours, you may report it by calling the Police Department at 929-4444.

When calling, please be ready to report the location by listing the street or avenue the pothole is located on and the house number or cross street nearest the pothole.