

Snow and Ice Removal Policy

Removal of snow and ice from roads is necessary for the benefit of transportation of goods, services and people throughout Cass County. The Cass County Road Commission has considered the needs of the community and balanced that against necessary budgetary and manpower constraints to develop the following policy.

General:

Snow and ice removal operations begin on primary roads and selected heavily traveled local roads when slippery conditions exist or snow begins to accumulate in excess of two inches (2"). The road crews respond accordingly and have designated routes and priorities.

For the first plowing special attention is addressed at intersections, hills and curves and the use of ice control materials will be extended beyond these locations as plowing continues.

Other paved local roads are done next and ice control measures are treated in the same manner. The subdivision, lake, and gravel roads are plowed last corresponding to the lower speeds and/or traffic volumes on these segments.

When threatening weather is in the forecast, the duty foreman examines the road system at approximately 3 a.m. to evaluate conditions, and call personnel to work if necessary. The Sheriff's department calls the duty foreman if unexpected weather is in the area, as well as taking after hour emergency calls and directing them to the duty foreman. The school districts are also in touch with the duty foreman during snow events to maintain lines of communication concerning road conditions. It is the goal of the Road Commission to open all roads within 48 hours of the snow event, however if additional snowfall impacts higher priority roads crews will be directed back to these sections even if lower priority roads are not yet completed.

Snow plowing is generally accomplished with trucks equipped with underbody scrapers, front plows and sanders to apply ice control materials. In extreme conditions additional equipment, graders and tractors equipped with plows, may be used although this equipment cannot apply ice control materials. Areas that are plowed with the graders and tractors are not sanded unless conditions warrant and approval is given by the Superintendent or Manager.

Ice Control Materials:

To avoid excessive use of salt, for economic and environmental reasons, the Road Commission mixes sand, salt, and calcium chloride. This mixture gives both melting qualities and abrasion to increase drivers stopping ability and vehicle control. Adjustments to the ratio of salt and calcium chloride are made depending on the temperature, wind conditions, etc... If temperatures or wind conditions prevent effective use of ice control materials they will not be applied until conditions warrant there use.

Plowing Service Limitations:

The Cass County Road Commission does not have a bare road policy. Primary and heavily traveled local roads will be treated with a goal of providing a pavement surface generally clear in the center of the road allowing width for one wheel track in each direction. Remaining paved local roads may have a thin coating of snow after plowing with spot treating of hills, curves and intersections with ice control materials. Gravel roads may have a thin coating of snow after plowing and will have ice control materials placed as conditions warrant.

Safety of plow operators and the public are important, snow plowing operations will be terminated after 14 continuous hours to allow personnel adequate time to rest. Operations may also be suspended during periods of limited visibility. All decisions to suspend activities shall be made by the Manager. Due to budgetary constraints the Cass County Road Commission will not plow local roads, including subdivisions and lake plats, or gravel roads on overtime unless more than four inches (4") of accumulation has occurred, or the duty foreman determines, after consultation with the Superintendent or Manager, that specific conditions warrant snow and ice removal.

Emergency Situations:

The Cass County Road Commission will respond to emergency situations verified by the Sheriff's department if roads are impassable anytime of the day or night. Cooperation with police, fire departments, doctors, and hospitals to the best of our ability to provide access during emergency situations will be maintained.

Miscellaneous

Damaged mailboxes will be replaced with a standard mailbox and post if the mailbox was physically struck by the plow. Damage done by moving snow is unavoidable and in this event the mailbox will not be replaced. Plow operators make every attempt to get close to mailboxes to provide access for the Post Office, but final cleaning is the responsibility of each resident.

Damage to sod, sprinkler systems, etc... located in the road Right-of-Way is unintentional and often unavoidable. The intent of the Right-of-Way is to provide room for snow storage along with other public functions. Severe gouges along roadsides will be graded or filled in the spring.

Snow plowing operations will deposit snow in driveways, the cost in manpower and equipment to remove that snow is far to great to accommodate.

Approved by Board Action [November 20, 2008](#)