

**Town of Liberty Grove
Resolution 6-09
Snow and Ice Control Policy**

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define and outline snow and ice control objectives and procedures established by the Town of Liberty Grove (hereinafter “the Town”). This policy supersedes any and all previously written documents and unwritten policies of the Town regarding snow and ice.

Intent:

The intent of establishing this Snow and Ice Control Policy is to provide a uniform understanding of the priorities and procedures used to combat snow and ice related road conditions. Each winter storm has unique characteristics and climatological factors such as storm intensity and duration, wind, temperature, and moisture content, which affects the total amount of snow/ice accumulation and influence the methodology used to combat the resulting snow and/or ice related road conditions.

Level of Service:

The Town performs snow and ice control on 100+ miles of Town roads. The Town also provides snow and ice control for Town held properties.

The policy for snow and ice control is based upon the principal to provide service to the highest priority roadways, or those locations where the most benefit will be realized by the greatest number of people. The Town shall plow the roads in the established order of service (the snow plowing route). One of the goals of winter maintenance is to achieve “passable roadways” within the limitations imposed by climatological conditions, the availability of resources, and environmental concerns during a winter storm event.

A “**passable roadway**” is defined as a roadway surface that is free from drifts, snow ridges, and as much ice and snow pack as is practical and can be traveled safely at **reasonable speeds**. A passable roadway should not be confused with a “dry pavement” or “bare pavement”, which is essentially free of all ice, snow and any free moisture from shoulder to shoulder. This “dry/bare pavement” condition may not exist until the weather conditions improve to the point where this pavement condition can be provided.

The definition of “**reasonable speed**” is considered a speed that a vehicle can travel without losing traction. During and immediately after a winter storm event, a reasonable speed will most likely be lower than the posted speed or the applicable statutory limit. Motorists can expect some inconvenience and will be expected to modify their driving practices to suit road conditions.

Dispatching Procedures:

The Town highway staff in consultation with the Town Administrator is consulted at the outset of a storm and a course of action is established on what plowing procedures will be followed based upon environmental conditions. The Town highway staff is typically not called out until an accumulation of 1-2 inches of snow has fallen. There are some Town roads that may receive a higher level of service based upon the town directives. Plow operations will generally consist of three phases: a) making roads passable, b) widening and salting or sanding, and c) general clean up.

The Town will try to maintain the roadways during the course of snow intervals. Operations will be halted when it is deemed too hazardous for our operators and the public, or if reasonable accomplishments are not being met. If snowfall stops during the night, at the discretion of the Administrator the crews may be dispatched prior to the normal 7 a.m. shift start. Weekend plowing will be handled in the same manner.

Service to Private Driveways:

The Town does not, as a routine practice, plow private driveways. In the rare case where a private landowner or contractor cannot remove the snow accumulation, the Town will, at the authorization of the Chairman or Administrator, assist with snow removal. The Town will attend to any emergency that requires immediate ingress or egress to a property. In all situations, the Town bills the property owner for the work completed. The bill includes a labor, equipment and material costs. Payment is expected within 30 days of receipt of invoice. Invoices not paid will be included as part of the property owners annual property tax bill and may accrue interest, penalties, and/or service charges and other recoverable costs in addition to the original base billing amount, or be subject to litigation proceedings.

Emergency Situations:

Provisions must be made for situations involving emergencies; therefore, in the event the Town receives notification of an emergency situation, equipment necessary to handle the emergency will be dispatched immediately to assist until the emergency has been resolved. In order to eliminate false emergency calls to the Town, it is preferable that the emergency calls be routed through the Door County Sheriff's Department. Since emergency calls will not always come through the Door County Sheriff's Department, those individuals in the Town receiving emergency calls will inform the caller that the Town will attempt to contact the Door County Sheriff's Department.

Departure from Policy:

The Town recognizes that conditions may be so unusual or unexpected that a departure from these general policies should be authorized. Therefore, the Town Chairman or Administrator may order a departure from these general rules when, in their opinion, conditions warrant such an action.

Public Safety and Cooperation

The goal of the Town is to have all local roads as passable as soon as reasonably possible, within the limitations of resources, roadway and facilities protection and environmental concerns. The traveling public is reminded to exercise caution and drive with care. In winter weather, the driving hazard that is even worse than snow and ice is the inability to see what is ahead, especially around snowplows. Motorists are advised to be cautious and to proceed slowly using courtesy and common sense. The legal speed limit may not be possible depending on conditions. The public is also requested to not CROWD THE PLOW, and to pass plows with extreme caution and never drive into the snow plows' cloud.

The Town may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement or emergency personnel. The Town will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles unless directed by law enforcement personnel to eliminate a safety hazard.

Mailboxes:

Mailboxes are to be installed in accordance with Town policies with respect to set backs and recommended materials. The Town assumes no responsibility for mailboxes damaged during the normal course of operations if they are not installed according to the installation policy or have been damaged by snow from the plow or wing.

Private Drive Snow Residue on Town Roads:

It is against the law to plow or blow snow from driveways onto or across Town roads.

The removal of windrows across private drives, deposited from Town plowing operations of the Town roads, is the responsibility of the resident.

Vehicles must not be parked on or along Town roads where they may interfere with snow plowing operations. Any vehicles found to interfere with said plowing shall be towed at owners' expense.

Adopted by the Town of Liberty Grove on April 1st, 2009.
Walter L. Kalms, Clerk/Administrator