

TOWN OF SANDOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Winter Operations for Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy

Town of Sandown, New Hampshire

Winter Operations for Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy

GENERAL POLICY

It is the goal and intent of the Town of Sandown, NH to provide timely, efficient and cost-effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the roadways of the municipality for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and the general motoring public.

The said objective will be achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures and tasks outlined in the Town's Winter Operations for Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy. Due to the many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm and/or weather event may require a slightly different effort and/or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

It is not possible to maintain a black, snow and ice-free road during a storm. It is the intention of the Town to provide a practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during winter storms.

It is our policy to start to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulations of two inches of snowfall. The Public Works Director may, at his or her discretion based upon weather information reports, elect to remove snow at greater or lesser accumulations. Pre-treatment and ice control may be addressed prior to the actual storm beginning, during the actual storm as seen effective, and preceding the storm. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 25 degrees, and may not be applied until it is warmer.

Higher volume roads will be cleared before lower volume roads, which are before hydrants. Higher volume roads may be treated multiple times before a lower volume road is treated once, based upon assessment of risk, progression of the storm, etc. Parking areas at all Town buildings will be conducted as possible during winter storms. Personnel availability and the need to maintain safe roadways will take priority.

EXECUTION

The Highway Department utilizes subcontractors for snow removal under the guidance of the Public Works Director. Contractors are hired during the fall of each year and the

contracted services are subject to continued appropriation of funds for this purpose during the fiscal year. The Selectmen and Public Works Director reserve the right to control the response on an event by event basis in order to conserve resources. There may be circumstances where as a result of equipment breakdown or compliance with commercial driver regulations, some or all of the equipment may not be deployed or even able to be deployed. Other variables that could prevent implementation of the policy or availability of equipment; snow accumulation in excess of 1" per hour, freezing rain or other icing conditions, traffic congestion, emergencies or personnel illness. The contracts do not guarantee that the same level of effort can be maintained throughout the response to a winter event. The Public Works Director is responsible for keeping in touch with the contractor to perform overall management of the contract.

MATERIALS

The Town uses approximately 1500 tons of road salt and 450 cubic yards of sand each season. The sand is used as an abrasive and is applied to the road to improve the public's motor vehicles traction. Salt is employed by the Town as a de-icing and anti-icing agent and is used on the Town Roads at dangerous intersections and extreme road conditions as designated by the Selectmen and the Public Works Director. The entire supply of sand is purchased each year from a supplier as needed. Unless weather conditions require a different approach, winter maintenance routes are treated with a mixture of sand and salt. The mixture is maintained at a minimum of one part salt to two parts sand. The mixture is applied to the center of the roadway where traffic can work the mix traveling either way. The mixture of sand/salt applied to the roads does not guarantee that roads will be safe for travel at posted speeds in all storm conditions. Vehicle operators remain responsible to adjust their driving habits to the conditions presented.

Residents will have access to sand stored at the Highway Department for personal use with a five gallon bucket limit. Salt is not available for residents' use.

PLOW ROUTE PRIORITIES

1. School bus routes will be given the first priority during school days. Each plow route will ensure that the best possible snow clearance will be completed within one hour of the bus route time. Higher volume roads will be maintained before lower volume roads and is based upon assessment of risk and progression of the storm.
2. Public parking areas at Town buildings will be maintained as possible during business hours, with the main snow clearance effort to be done before opening for business.
3. Transfer Station/Recycling Area. Transfer Station personnel may be required to assist with the Town's general winter maintenance operations. If the facility is open during the snow or ice storm, personnel are to keep public areas as clear as

possible to provide for safe access as reasonably possible. Sand and other slip resistant materials shall be used in public areas. It often will not be possible to maintain clear ground, but a reasonable effort will be made during storms.

4. Fire Hydrants. Personnel from the Fire Department will maintain the removal of snow from all Fire Hydrants in Town. When there is no one from the Fire Department to remove the snow, the Public Works Director will take over this responsibility. Residents are encouraged to volunteer to keep hydrants clear in front of their property.

ROADS NOT RECEIVING WINTER MAINTENANCE

The Town of Sandown does not maintain a number of roadways as part of its ongoing winter maintenance activities. The areas not maintained by the Town include:

- A. Town roads classified as Class VI roads
- B. Private roads
- C. School District sidewalks (Parking areas are plowed by the Town)

LOW-SALT AREAS

- A. All secondary roads are considered low- salt areas
- B. All pond area roadways are considered low-salt areas

DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

Occasionally mailboxes or other devices such as markers, stakes, vehicles and sports equipment are damaged by snow plowing operations due to poor visibility, being buried in a snow bank or the weight/volume of the snow being plowed. This damage is not deliberate and in most cases is unavoidable. These devices are located within the town limits and are the responsibility of the property owner. The Public Works Director will work with the owner to locate the safest possible location and to offer advice to minimize potential damage. The town requires for all devices excluding mailboxes to be removed from the town limits before November 1st or the first snow fall.

WIDENING OR PUSHING BACK SNOW BANKS

Following storms with heavy snowfall or when several storms result in substantial snow bankings, the Town will undertake a roadway widening procedure, which will push back the snow banks. The Town uses a front end loader for snow removal for line of sight distance at intersections. These are necessary operations because it accomplishes the following:

1. Provides room for future snow storage and to make room for emergency equipment.
2. Reduces or prevents melted snow from running out onto the roadway pavement and creating icing conditions.
3. Increases safe sight distance at intersections and driveways.
4. Maintains a uniform line by eliminating protrusions at driveways and intersections.

Unfortunately, there is no way to prevent depositing snow in previously cleaned driveways or walkways except to leave a hazardous projecting mound of snow. With hundreds of driveways of all sizes and descriptions along our highway system it is impossible to clear these individual drives as the cost would be prohibitive and would probably result in complaints of Town funds expended for the benefit of certain individuals.

SNOW RELATED VIOLATIONS

The following actions are considered violations and are subject to fines. This list is not inclusive of all violations. Please refer to the Town Clerk's office for a complete list of all ordinances and violations on file for the Town of Sandown.

1. Plowing snow from a walkway or driveway into a town accepted or town maintained road. Fine of \$100.00 assessed to the property owner.
2. Any vehicles parked on any portion of Town plowed roadways will be towed at the owner's expense. No warnings will be issued. Effective November 1st through May 1st.

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Please refer to Town of Sandown Parking Ordinance as notice of additional parking restrictions and associated fines.

Per RSA 231:90 (I) Duty of Town After Notice of Insufficiency requires that any person may give written notice of such insufficiency to the Selectmen or Public Works Director.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall be effective upon posting at the Sandown Town Hall and upon recording an attested copy of same with the Sandown Town Clerk.

(As adopted by the Sandown Board of Selectmen on, Monday, December 28, 2009. A signed copy of this policy is on file at the Sandown Town Hall)

Brian Chevalier, Chairman

Nelson Rheume, Vice Chairman

Roger Barczak

Hans Nicolaisen

Stephen Brown