

## Snowplowing in Kinnickinnic

**Author: Alex Williams, Town Supervisor**

Every year, it is inevitable; water vapor in the air crystalizes and becomes snow. The snow then falls onto the earth and Kinnickinnic residents struggle to make it to work or school on time. Luckily, the Town of Kinnickinnic has contracted out snowplowing to the St. Croix County Highway Department. So, what are the details behind the madness of clearing our roads during an early October snowstorm? That is what I will explain in this article.

The County offers various levels of snow response. They offer a 24-hour, 18-hour, and a 12-hour response. The level of service provided is normally dictated by traffic volume, and also corresponds to the cost of service. The Town has opted for the 12-hour response, which is also typical to most County Highways. With this service, the snowplow operator will begin between 4 and 5 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. If additional clean-up is needed, the operator will continue his/her work the following morning, and the cycle will continue until all our roads have been cleared and the snow has stopped falling.

The County has a designated operator that takes care of the Town roads. They designate the route as a “beat”. The county does this to provide the best level of service. With the same operator plowing township roads, he/she becomes accustomed to areas where it tends to be slippery, drift-over, or spots that need extra attention. Our “beat” operator normally takes care of high traffic roads first including Liberty, Quarry, Ponderosa, and Evergreen. If ice is in the forecast, he/she also prioritizes Coulee and Townhall because of the hills and curves. Once those roads are cleared, the operator continues plowing all township roads.

If you see a problematic area after a storm has passed, you can report it to the Town Chair, or if he/she is not available, reach out to a Town Supervisor. The Town representative can call the Highway department and have it addressed.

While the winter weather can be unforgiving, rest assured that there will be a St. Croix County Highway Operator out clearing roads and laying down salt and sand to keep us safe.