

TOWN OF CHESHIRE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY

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SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Cheshire believes that it is in the best interest of the residents for the Town to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on the town streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The Town will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The Town will use Town employees, equipment and or private contractors to provide this service.

II. PROCEEDURES

The Highway Foreman will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations.
The criteria for that decision are as follows:

- A.) Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more , or discretion of the DPW Director/Highway
- B.) Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel
- C.) Ice conditions that seriously affect travel
- D.) Upon being notified by emergency personnel of an existing condition.

III. METHOD OF SNOW REMOVAL

Snow will be plowed in a manner as to minimize any traffic obstructions. Snow will be plowed from inside out and the areas of priority are specified in item #4. In times of extreme snowfall, all streets and roadways will not always be able to be completely cleared of snow in a timely manner.

IV. ROADWAY PRIORITY

The Town has classified Town streets and roads based on the importance and welfare of the community.

First priority roads & streets of the Town are the main corridors that provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services. This includes emergency building access.

Second priority roads & streets are those that provide access to schools and commercial businesses.

Third priority roads & streets are low volume streets and roads. This includes unapproved roads.

Fourth priority areas are town parking lots with the exception of emergency lots.

A snow emergency may be declared any time during the year at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board of Selectman when two or more inches of snow or ice have covered or drifted over a street or roadway.



V. WORK SCHEDULE FOR SNOW PLOW OPERATORS

Snowplow operators are unscheduled emergency personnel. Operators will take a break fifteen (15) minute break every three (3) hours and a thirty (30) minute meal break every 6 hours.

VI. WEATHER CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO SAFETY

Snow and Ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of Town employees, subcontractors and equipment beyond the normal risk inherited with snow and ice control operations. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include but are not limited to severe cold, significant winds and limited visibility. The decision to delay operations for safety reasons beyond normal operating conditions is at the discretion of the DPW Director or Highway Foreman.

VII. USE OF SALT AND OTHER CHEMICALS

The Town will use salt, BIVI Chip, sand and chemicals when there is hazardous ice and slippery conditions. The Town is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

VIII. SIDEWALKS

If weather, schedules and labor permit, sidewalks will be cleared in the days following a storm. Some sidewalks are not able to be cleared due to the width restrictions and obstacles including but not limited to telephone poles, fire hydrants and stonewalls.

IX. PARKING LOTS, ENTRANCES, DRIVEWAYS

Responsibility for snow removal and ice treatment on private roads, driveways, parking lots and entrances to these areas is the sole responsibility of the individual property owner. This includes the clearing of additional snow that may accumulate once the Town plows have gone by.

Town snow plowing crews will be responsible for plowing the Municipal parking lots.

X. PLACEMENT OF SNOW ON PUBLIC PROPERTY OR OBSTRUCTING VIEWS

In accordance with the provisions of the Towns By-Laws (Article 44) and Massachusetts State Law (MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D), it is unlawful for any person to place snow or ice upon public property, including public streets and roadways.

Furthermore, cleared snow shall not be piled and accumulated in a manner which blocks the visibility of drivers or creates other hazardous conditions on streets or roadways. The Highway Superintendent shall have authority to notify property owners who violate this section and shall require them to remedy the situation in a timely manner.

Violations shall be subject to a fine of fifty (\$50) dollars for a first offense and a fine of one hundred (\$100) dollars for each subsequent offense.



XI. PROPERTY DAMAGE

The Town recognizes that on occasion private property is damaged during snow and ice control operations. Where this happens it shall be the policy of the town to handle damages in the following manner:

a.) Mailboxes:

Where mailboxes are placed adjacent to the street, it shall be the policy of the Town that snow shall be plowed as close as practical to the curb or roadside edge as to allow for passage of traffic and mail delivery. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to keep piled snow away from mailboxes so that mail can be delivered.

Where damage to the mailbox occurs due to contact with plow equipment, the Town will make repairs to the mailbox.

In instances of mailbox and post damage by means other than visible contact with equipment such as contact by the plowing of heavy wet spring snow, the property owner will be solely responsible for damage and subsequent repairs.

b.) Grass & Lawn Repair:

The Town shall be responsible to repair lawn damage due to plow equipment including both street and sidewalk plows.

c.) Curbs:

Concrete and asphalt curbing will be addressed on a location specific basis and all repair decisions will be made by the Highway Superintendent.

d.) Driveway Aprons:

The Town will not repair damage caused to driveway aprons or fillets unless authorized by the DPW Director or Highway Foreman.

XII. PLOWING OF UNAPPROVED TOWN ROADS

Unapproved Town roads are plowed and treated for emergency vehicle access only. The Town is not responsible for any damage that may happen to vehicles, trees, mailboxes, fences, stone walls or other physical items during snow removal operations on unapproved roads. Unapproved roads in the area of the lake district will not be treated with salt due to the proximity to the lake and the effects of excessive salt on the environment. On these particular roadways, coarse aggregate will be used to ensure traction for emergency vehicles. Treatment exceptions may be made during extreme conditions at the discretion of the Highway Superintendent.

XIII. PARKING RESTRICTIONS DURING WINTER MONTHS

Per the Cheshire Board of Selectman, a parking ban has been issued. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to park said vehicle on any public street or place where the traveling public has the right of access between the hours of 10PM and 7AM of any day during the period of November 1 through April 30.

Vehicles parked on Town roadways in violation of the ban may be ticketed and/or towed at the owners expense without prior warning.



XIV. SNOW TRUCKING AND REMOVAL

The DPW Director or Highway Foreman will determine when snow will be removed by truck or equipment from any area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the street for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow trucking operations will not commence until other operations have been completed. Snow trucking operations may be delayed depending on weather conditions and personnel availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area within the Town of Cheshire. The snow storage area will be located as to minimize environmental concerns.

XV. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SNOW REMOVAL POLICY AND PROCEEDURE

The DPW Director or Highway Foreman shall annually review and present changes if necessary to the Board of Selectman for adoption by resolution of this policy in its entirety during the month of October each year.