

**SNOW PLOWING POLICY
TOWN OF PLOVER
PORTAGE COUNTY**

INTRODUCTION

Keeping the roads safe during the winter months is a challenge in central Wisconsin.

The Town of Plover is committed to keeping the roads in a condition that makes travel safe and possible. The purpose of this document is to set forth the Town's snowplow policy and inform citizens of the important factors and associated conditions involved in providing this service. While the policy will not answer every question and with the changing of weather conditions we all need to be flexible and patient.

TOWN POLICY

In accordance with Wisconsin Statutes, no commercial driveways or parking lots may be plowed by the town. The Town, its officials, contracted snow plow companies and employees will not be held responsible for any personal injuries or property damage when the Town of Plover is engaged in snow plowing.

SNOW PLOWING ROUTES

The Town of Plover has about 70 miles of roads. 40 of those miles are paved roads and 30 are gravel roads in our town. We have two large plow trucks with salting and sanding ability, a road grader and two pick-up trucks with v-plows that our town employees use to plow all roads west of HWY 39. Also, the Town of Plover has a contracted plowing service for snow plowing needs to plow all town roads east of HWY 39. Low maintenance farm country roads with no residents are plowed as needed.

TIMES FOR PLOWING

The town crew typically begins their day at 4 AM. If there is a heavy snowfall they may start earlier. The goal is to get roads cleared before people head out to work and then again before they return. The hours may be altered as determined by weather conditions, the forecast, and to provide a safe travel on town roads. The Town of Plover contracted plowing service shall follow very similar protocols.

DECISION ON PLOWING

Each storm is different. The Town of Plover road crew and the contracted plowing service will take many variables into consideration in the decision to plow or to not plow. Some of those variables include temperature, wind conditions prior to and during the storm, forecast, previously salted roads, sanded roads, rain, ice build-up and the amount of snow that falls. Taking all of these factors into consideration, it is typical that plowing may begin when 1 inch of snow has fallen. When heavy snows are occurring during peak travel times, roads with the highest traffic volume will be plowed more frequently. Secondary streets will be plowed as often as possible. Low volume residential streets may not be plowed until the storm abates. It is not an exact science and there may be times when the decision of when or if to plow is questioned. The first and most important aspect is the safety of those on the road. Town of Plover Road crew and the contracted plowing service will be in consultation with the Town Chairman during major snow events. If you have a question or concern during a major snow event, contact a member of your town board rather than any of our plow drivers.

WORK SCHEDULE FOR SNOWPLOW OPERATORS

Snowplow operators will be expected to work eight-hour shifts, as directed by highway superintendent or board supervisor. In severe snow emergencies operators sometimes shall have to work in excess of eight hours shifts. However, because of budget and safety concerns no operator shall work more than a twelve-hour shift in any twenty-four-hour period. After a twelve-hour shift the operator will be replaced if additional qualified personnel

are available. Each town snow plow employee that retains a CDL license shall be trained to cover all necessary routes if needed. Drivers for our plowing service will follow their company rules.

KEEPING ROADWAYS SAFE

When you take care of your own snow removal please be aware that pushing snow onto or across roads from private driveways can cause accidents, death and/or damage which is a violation of state statutes and our town ordinance.

Keep garbage containers out of the right of way so the plows can safely clear the roads without hitting your containers.

Parking your car on the town road can cause safety issues. With minimal shoulders, a car parked on the road can be in the way of plows and be in the way of other traffic. Snowplow speeds are typically limited to a maximum of 25 miles an hour.

MAILBOXES AND FENCES

Mailboxes must be properly installed in a way that handles snow coming off the plows as they go past. The town will take responsibility only if there is a direct hit by the plow to a properly installed mailbox. Mailboxes shall be the responsibility of the property owner to maintain access to mailboxes so mail can be delivered.

Fences and other encroachments: If it is determined that damage to private property was caused by town snow plowing operations, the repair or replacement of damages may be approved by town board. It will be the town's discretion as to doing the work or having the property owner supply an estimate, the owner must present an invoice confirming repair is complete before payment will be made. *No damage to fences located within the public right-of-way will be covered by the town. The town will not repair private landscaping-including nursery and inanimate materials that are installed or encroach on town owned right-of-way.

WINGING OR WIDENING ROADS

Care will be given to leaving the least deposits of snow in driveways as possible, but cannot be completely avoided. To keep the snow in your driveway to a minimum, when plowing your driveway put as much snow as possible to the right side of your driveway as you are exiting. Or at least 20 feet into your driveway rather than on the roadside. Snowplow wing blades can extend up to 10 feet beyond the truck width.

IMPASSABLE ROADS

During blizzard conditions, plows may be pulled from the roads until the severity of the storm lessens. Please stay off the roads until the plows can get out.

EMERGENCIES

If there is an emergency situation, ambulance and/or fire department, **call 911** or the Sheriff's Department at **715-346-1400** and the response will be put into motion. Having a doctor appointment is not considered a medical emergency. The concern that you or a family member may become ill is not a medical emergency.

Be prepared for winter, make sure you have adequate fuel to heat your home and supplies. Running low on fuel or supplies is not considered an emergency.