

TOWN OF TINMOUTH
SNOWPLOWING PRACTICE

1. INTRODUCTION

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. The Town will endeavor to provide reasonably safe road conditions during times of inclement weather. Travelers should use safe judgment and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather. The Town has two full time employees to do winter maintenance on approximately 13 miles of paved road and 18.5 miles of gravel road.

2. WHEN WILL THE TOWN START SNOW OR ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS?

The Road Commissioner or Highway Department personnel will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. When precipitation first starts or just prior to that salt, sand and chemicals will be applied;
- B. Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more plowing operations will begin;
- C. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- D. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- E. Time of snow fall in relationship to heavy use of roads.

3. HOW SNOW WILL BE PLOWED

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. The discharge shall go onto the shoulder area of the road. In times of extreme snowfall (12 inches or more), roads will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

4. PRIORITIES AND SCHEDULE FOR WHICH ROADS WILL BE PLOWED

The Town has classified Town roads based on the road function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Routes will be plowed in the most cost effective and timely manner. Those roads classified as “Major collectors” will be plowed first and to accommodate the school bus schedule as is feasible. These are high volume routes which connect major sections of the Town and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services.

The second priority are gravel roads. The third priority are low volume or dead end roads. The fourth priority areas are Town parking lots.

5. WORK SCHEDULE FOR SNOWPLOW OPERATORS

Snowplow operators will be expected to work eight-hour shifts. In severe snow emergencies, operators sometimes shall have to work in excess of eight-hour shifts. Ideally, because of safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a sixteen-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. If additional qualified personnel are available they will fill-in. Snow and ice operations will not normally take place between midnight and 4 AM.

6. WEATHER CONDITIONS

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of employees or equipment, and operations are effective. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility and rapid accumulations of snow and/or ice.

7. USE OF SAND, SALT AND OTHER CHEMICALS

The Town will use sand, salt, and other chemicals when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions as necessary. The Town is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason. Even after reasonable care, snow and ice may still build up. The Town does not have a bare roads practice.

8. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

For emergency vehicles responding to emergency situations (fire, medical, police) within the Town, necessary employees and equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible.

9. DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

Objects in the Town's right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk and the town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of State Statute. Damage caused by snow thrown from the plow will not be covered by the Town. Damage to trees, shrubbery, other landscaping and mailboxes will not be considered for compensation

10. PLOWING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Unless approved by the Select Board or emergency vehicles need access, there shall be no plowing of private property or Class 4 roads with town equipment.

11. TOWING OF VEHICLES

The towing of vehicles not owned by the Town of Tinmouth is not the responsibility of the Town. Vehicles that are simply stuck or unable to travel will not be towed or "pulled out" by a town vehicle. Any vehicle that is left unattended or parked in an emergency vehicle turn around (snow plow vehicles are considered emergency vehicles) can and may be towed by a professional towing company at the owner's expense.

12. State law (23 VSA section 1126a) prohibits plowing snow or shoveling snow from a private road or drive across or onto town or state highways. Violators may be subject to fine or penalty.

Effective January 24, 2019

Tinmouth Select Board

Frank Sears

Cathy Reynolds

Michael Fallar