

TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE DPW

SNOWPLOWING GUIDLINES

(Effective 11/14, Amended 1/23 per.Director,CW)

1. INTRODUCTION

Reasonable ice and snow control on Public Ways is necessary to provide mobilization for routine commuter travel and emergency services. The Department of Public Works will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind mobilization, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The Department of Public Works will use town employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service. The Department of Public Works intentions are to provide reasonable mobilization in which the motor vehicle operator shall adjust their driving skills during times of all types of inclement weather conditions. Travelers should use their own safe judgment and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather. Winter weather driving requires changes in your driving habits and vehicle up grades that allow you to safely get to your destinations.

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

The Highway Superintendent 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;
- E. Time of snow fall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

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. Our plows are locked in a fixed one-way position. Driveways do take a portion of this snow. This is not a deliberate act, just the nature of the equipment. We apologize.

4. PRIORITIES AND SCHEDULE FOR WHICH STREETS WILL BE PLOWED

The Town has classified Town roads and streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Routes will be plowed in the most cost effective and timely manner. Those streets classified as "Major collectors" will be plowed first. 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 streets are gravel roads. The third priority are low volume or deadend residential streets. The fourth priority areas are Town parking lots, to be maintained by the Buildings and Grounds dept.

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. However, because of safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a sixteen-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. Operators will take a fifteen minute break every two hours with a half-hour meal break after approximately four hours. After a sixteen-hour day, the operators will be required to leave work for 8 hours. If additional qualified personnel are available they will fill-in. Snow and ice operations will not normally take place between midnight and 4 am. Traffic volumes during these times are at their lowest or if any at all.

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. Weather Condition factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include; severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility and rapid accumulations of snow and/or ice. Even after reasonable care, snow and ice may still build up more rapidly than the crews can maintain which may limit motor vehicle mobility. These are the times when the motor vehicle operator must engage in PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...Slow down and use caution while driving.

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. The Town is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

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. Keeping in mind we are in the winter season, road conditions may be slick and snow covered, drive at a reasonable speed. Slow down and use caution while driving.

9. DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

Only those properties (example mail boxes, legally parked automobiles) which are installed properly and allowed by Town by-laws to be adjacent to streets and are damaged by actual contact with Town equipment will be considered for repair or replacement at Town expense. Damage caused by snow discharged from the plow will not be covered by the Town. Damage to trees, shrubbery and other landscaping will not be considered for compensation.

10. PLOWING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

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

11. TOWING OF VEHICLES

The towing of vehicles not owned by the Town of WEST STOCKBRIDGE 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. Refer to the Town of West Stockbridge Parking Ban