

TITLE II – TRANSPORTATION

CHAPTER 11

POLICIES AND LEVEL OF SERVICE IN CLEARANCE OF SNOW

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11.01 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish the County’s policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, pursuant to the provisions of Section 309.67 of the Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented with the amount of money budgeted for the service and as contained in the county’s secondary road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

11.02 LEVEL OF SERVICE.

Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months are primarily for the benefit of the local residents of the County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves and/or intersections. The County’s existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose. All clearance of snow and ice, sanding, salting and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion to the extent that a motorist’s sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in its corners in piles of unequal height. The line of sight, sight distance or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulder by others.

Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, and reduced or impaired visibility. In respect to roads that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by the motorists. During these conditions no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed that warn of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

11.03 SEQUENCE OF SERVICE.

In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the County's secondary road system during the winter months, the County Engineer shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this section and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt roads. The County Engineer's professional judgment shall prevail.

1. Paved Routes.
 - A. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to traffic as soon as possible. Any subsequent snow removal may be carried on during normal working hours.
 - B. The truck mounted snowplows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. The trucks may be called off the road if snow or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the County Engineer.
 - C. When required, due to drifting snow, motor graders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.
 - D. It is not the policy of the County to provide a "dry" pavement condition. After roads have been plowed as provided in this section, intersections, hills and curves may have placed on them sand, salt or other abrasives. These intersections, hills and curves will not be resanded, resalted or have other abrasives placed on them between snowstorms. This sequence of service shall be performed only between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. each day, exclusive of Saturday, Sundays and legal holidays observed by County employees.

2. Unpaved Roads.
 - A. The truck mounted snow plows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. The trucks may be called off the road if snow or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the County Engineer.
 - B. When required, due to drifting snow, motor graders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.
 - C. Sand, salt or other abrasives will not be placed on unpaved roads.
 - D. It is not the policy of the County to provide a “dry” pavement condition.
 - E. After travel is possible, subsequent snow removal may be carried on during normal working hours.
 - F. Motor graders and/or truck plows will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Gravel roads may not be plowed if the wind is causing continual drifting.
 - G. Snow may not be removed from roads designated as Level B.

11.04 LIMITATION OF SERVICE.

The policy and level of service provided for in this chapter shall not include the performance of the following services:

1. Sanding, salting or placing of other abrasives upon the roadways that are slick, slippery and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
2. Sanding, salting or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing rain that occurs outside the County’s usual working hours of 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
3. Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

11.05 EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.

The sequence of service may be suspended during “emergency” conditions. An “emergency” condition is considered as one where a loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred or where extensive loss of property is imminent. These conditions may be verified through a physician’s office, sheriff’s office or local fire department. The authority to declare an “emergency” rests with the County Engineer. The County will respond to all “emergency” conditions, either during or after a snowstorm. The provisions of this chapter shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State Disaster Plan, or the Chairperson of the board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the County Disaster Plan. If such occurs, the County personnel and the equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the governor or the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors.

11.06 PRIVATE DRIVES.

The County will not remove snow from private drives, including snow that may be deposited in driveways during normal snow removal operations. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders.

11.07 DUMPING OF SNOW.

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, push, or place or cause to be thrown, pushed or placed, any ice or snow from private property, sidewalks, or driveways onto the traveled way of streets so as to obstruct gutters, or impede the passage of vehicles upon the street or to create a hazardous condition therein; except where, in the cleaning of large commercial drives in the business district it is absolutely necessary to move the snow onto the streets temporarily, such accumulation shall be removed promptly by the property owner or agent, and only after first making arrangements for such prompt removal at the owner’s cost of the accumulation within a reasonably short time.