

CHAPTER 30

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE OF SECONDARY ROADS

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30.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to establish Story 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, as provided in HF 2487, Section 10(2), Acts of the 63rd G.A. Second Session, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 309.67, *Code of Iowa*. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, as contained in Story County's secondary road budget, as adopted by the Board of Supervisors, and submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation. The normal logistics of maintenance will be modified by varying severity of storms, winds, temperature, other weather conditions, equipment limitations, trained personnel available, and budget constraints. Persons using public right-of-ways are hereby warned that travel conditions are hazardous and severe weather conditions may overwhelm the time, equipment, and personnel services assigned to road maintenance. Some storms may be so severe that, in the professional judgment of the County Engineer, the road services must be suspended.

30.02 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 Story County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The County's existing operable 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. The rental of equipment is not anticipated. The portion of the roadway improved for travel may 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 entire width of that portion of the road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice, or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right-of-way. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulder by others. 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 the 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. It is the motorists' responsibility to 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, and motorists are advised to reduce their speed at least 25 miles per hour below that legally permitted or advised under normal conditions. In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by motorists, and their speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour. 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.

30.03 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 weather conditions require snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel roads. The County Engineer's professional judgment shall prevail.

1. Paved Routes – First Sequence.
 - A. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible.
 - B. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on as determined necessary based on existing and forecasted conditions.
 - C. The truck-mounted snow plows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. The trucks may be called off the road if weather conditions reduce visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer or his delegated representative.
 - D. It is not the policy of the County to provide a “dry” pavement condition.
 - E. After roads have been plowed as provided in this section, intersections, hills, and curves may have salt, sand, or other abrasive material placed on them. These intersections, hills, and curves will not be re-sanded, re-salted, or have other abrasives replaced on them between storms. This sequence of service shall be performed only between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. each day, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays observed by County employees.
2. Unpaved Roads – Second Sequence.
 - A. The initial effort on granular surfaced roads will be to get one lane open for traffic from one direction to each occupied dwelling as soon as possible after a storm has passed.
 - B. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on as determined necessary based on existing and forecasted conditions.
 - C. Motor graders and/or truck plows will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Gravel roads may not be plowed if the wind is causing continual drifting.
 - D. Snow may not be removed from dirt roads and gravel roads, or portions thereof, not serving occupied dwellings.
3. Private Drives. The County will not clear snow from private drives. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private drives. Snow

from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders. New mailboxes, plain galvanized normal small size, will be issued to owners only if destroyed mailbox has been hit by snow removal equipment. Mailboxes thus provided must be mounted on 4 x 4-inch wood posts. Claims for replacement mailboxes must be made by the end of the third day after the box is damaged. Replacement boxes will not be provided for those damaged by flying snow.

There is no time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequence of clearance, on paved or unpaved roads, shall take place.

30.04 LIMITATION OF SERVICE. The policy and level of service provided for in this chapter does not include the performance of the following services:

1. Sanding, salting, or placing of other abrasives upon a roadway that is slick, slippery, and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
2. Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing precipitation that occurs outside the County's usual working hours.
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.
4. Sanding, salting, or placing abrasives upon any road, except for paved roads.

30.05 EMERGENCY CONDITIONS .

1. The sequence of service may be suspended during emergency conditions. An "emergency condition" is when one or all of the following situations occur: where a serious injury has occurred, where a loss of life is probable, or where disastrous or cataclysmic loss of property is imminent. The above conditions should be verified by a physician or sheriff or said person's appropriate representative. The County will respond to all emergency conditions, either during or after a hazardous storm.
2. 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 equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors.

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