

Snow and Ice Removal Plan for Seward County Rural Roads

The plan for snow and ice removal covers the procedures that are to be followed in the event of a winter snow or ice storm. It is a guide and may be deviated from at the discretion of the County Highway Superintendent and Assistant Highway Superintendent. It is the County's policy to make the best possible use of the County personnel and equipment in the administration of this service. It is not the intent of Seward County to have a "bare road" policy, but rather to use its personnel and equipment according to this plan.

It is the County's intent to open all roads as outlined consistently and timely. Sanding and clearing of snow will be for the movement of traffic and to provide as much traction as possible to the motorists. There will be times that roads are very slick and snow covered. During heavy snows, some roads may be completely blocked or have one-lane traffic for long periods of time. In these situations, motorists must exercise caution in operating their vehicle. Any vehicle which becomes stalled or abandoned on the county road system during a snow or ice storm is the responsibility of the owner.

Definitions:

One Lane - A single pass with equipment to remove snow to allow one opened lane of traffic.

Passable – Multiple passes with equipment so two motor vehicles can pass each other going in opposite directions.

Emergency- An event of an urgent nature that would require immediate snow removal intervention to respond to a specific location.

Normal Working Hours – 7:00am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday.

Other Arterial and Collectors – Entrance and Exit roads to a town; Highway to highway access; Emergency response personnel; Traffic emergency alternatives routes; Potentially high risk access/evacuation areas (i.e. chemical spill, electrical stations); School bus and postal routes.

Bare Road – Road surface totally free of snow and ice.

*Snow removal crews will be dispatched when snow accumulation is at measurable depth on paved roads and two inches on gravel roads or at the discretion of Highway Superintendent or Assistant Highway Superintendent. Snow removal will begin when visibility is adequate and safe for machine operation or at the discretion Highway Superintendent or Assistant Highway Superintendent. The goal is to obtain two-way traffic as soon as possible after snow removal operations have begun. This goal will be accomplished with expanded hours early or late, depending on snow amounts and wind.

Routes designated as Other Arterial and Collector roads will be plowed first with other areas or less traveled roads following.

Each operator will be furnished a map of their area showing the priority roads.

*Operator schedules will be adjusted as needed for initial snow removal. Expanded snow removal will primarily be done during normal working hours. Emergency plowing or sanding for Emergency Services and Utility Services will be done by the designated operator. Gravel roads will not be sanded or salted

under any conditions. Hard surfaced roads will be sanded and/or salted in the following areas per storm as needed, or at the discretion of the Highway Superintendent or Assistant Highway Superintendent. Examples: curves, hills, stop signs, intersections, bridges.

Operators of snow equipment will have at least one meeting in September outlining their duties. They will be furnished a map of their area of responsibility along with a copy of the snow plan.