

# WESTON COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE

## Snow Removal Policy

Our policy is to keep the roads open, safe, and usable for all drivers, to the extent that we possibly can. The following plan covers the procedures Weston County Road & Bridge will follow during the winter months for snow removal. Any of these operations may be altered at the discretion of the Road & Bridge Department depending on conditions and/or available resources.

Our priorities are the more highly traveled roads and the main arteries, such as established school bus routes and mail routes. Our normal working hours are Monday through Friday, 7am-4:30pm, excluding holidays. We start as early as we can and plow throughout the day if possible. Our department is not staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the determination whether or not to plow outside of normal working hours will be made by Road & Bridge personnel. If a snowstorm impacts the entirety of Weston County our limited staff does not allow us to clear all of the roads in one day. Where we plow first will be determined by snowfall totals in different areas of the county. Again, subdivisions and school bus routes will always be first priority.

We generally do not plow until it stops snowing. We do not have adequate staff and equipment to plow the same roads twice in one day. If a combination of snow and wind reduces visibility to a point of making travel unsafe or affects our ability to keep the roads open, we will suspend plowing until our efforts will be safe and effective. If the Road & Bridge Department determines that we will not be able to keep roads open, we will make every effort to notify the school transportation districts so that they can make appropriate decisions involving transporting children to and from school safely.

We do not respond to calls from people who become stuck and want help getting out, or who want a ride to their destination. We do not provide towing, or remove stuck vehicles from roadways. You are responsible to know the weather conditions that may impact these county roads. You must use your judgement on the weather conditions and whether you and the vehicle you're in possess the skills to traverse the road. With that in mind, the decision and responsibility for winter travel falls to the individual. Our purpose is and must be to open the roads in a safe manner.

We try to avoid plowing snow into people's driveways whenever possible. Due to the amount of driveways on some rural roads we are not able to avoid putting snow in front of them in order to keep plows moving in order to get as many roads open as possible. It is unfeasible to keep all driveways clear of snow. We also do not plow out private residences or places of business.

If private landowners or businesses are removing snow from their private approaches, we prefer that they push the snow onto their own property. If you push snow onto the county road after we

have plowed it, we are not responsible for plowing it again. If an emergency arises where snow must be plowed before we can get to it, we ask that you try to coordinate with us beforehand and try not to tear up the road or remove gravel along with the snow. If you remove gravel from the county road or damage the road in the process of removing snow from your private property you will be responsible for repairs.

On occasion, too, there are legitimate emergency situations where access to a county road is a must, such as those who become lost or have various medical needs. The Road & Bridge is committed to doing all we can to assist in such critical matters, whenever they arise. We would encourage people in the area, especially those considerable distances from town, or those who live on less traveled county or state roads, to give thought to keeping on hand adequate supplies of food, medicine and prescriptions, propane, livestock feed, and other daily essentials. It may be prudent to stock up on such items at times when the weather and the road conditions are good for travel.

Finally, when Emergency Management issues a travel advisory, or asks people to eliminate unnecessary travel and to just stay home, that advice should be heeded carefully. When temperatures are double digits below zero it is not only unsafe for the public, but for our staff as well, and can potentially be harmful to our equipment. The Road & Bridge Department will work together with local law enforcement and other agencies to keep the public advised of current conditions and at times when the plowing is suspended until conditions improve, the public will be made aware of it. People need to weigh carefully if driving in such conditions is really necessary, and if it is worth the risk.

If you have an emergency situation, call **911 immediately**.