

TOWN OF ARCADIA WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY

General

The goal of winter maintenance is to make roadways safe within the limitations of resources.

Plowing is the primary means of snow removal. Salt/sand mix is used to provide traction.

Definitions

A “passable roadway” is defined as a roadway surface that is free from drifts and as much ice and snow pack as is practical; and which can be traveled safely at reasonable speeds. A passable roadway should not be confused with “dry pavement” or “bare pavement” which is essentially free of all ice, snow and any free moisture from shoulder to shoulder. This “dry/bare pavement” condition may not exist until the weather improves to the point that this pavement condition can be attained.

“Reasonable speed” is a speed that a vehicle can travel without losing traction. During and immediately after a winter storm event, a reasonable speed will most likely be lower than the posted/statutory speed limit. Motorists can expect some inconvenience and will be expected to modify their driving practice to suit road conditions.

An “open roadway” is defined as a roadway surface that does not have both lanes “impassable” to traffic. “Impassable” is defined as a roadway in which most vehicles cannot operate on the roadway without the assistance of snowplows or other snow removal or towing equipment.

Level of service

All town roads will receive normal service to keep “passable roadways” between the hours of 4:00 am and 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. No service between the hours of 6:00 pm and 4:00 am except to keep an “open roadway” in all types of winter storm events.

During weekends and holidays, service will be provided as needed to keep an “open roadway” in all types of winter storm events.

Salt/sand mix is applied to all critical areas as practical after the storm. “Critical areas” are defined as curves, hills, and intersections.

Priority routes

School bus routes shall have priority over others. Road crew coordinates with school bus drivers in order to “stay ahead” of the buses.

The town of Arcadia is divided into four established plow routes. Each snow plow driver plows a single route in an established pattern. Uninhabited lanes are not necessarily plowed on the day of a snow event.

In the event of dangerous storms, snow plows will not operate at night except for emergencies. Special attention and cooperation will be given to requests from the Sheriff's Department or Emergency Management to plow out roads when a threat of health or life exists. (Examples are: need for an ambulance to pick up a heart attack victim or to care for a mother in childbirth, or when there is a fuel or energy outage affecting the elderly or children.)

Chain of command

The road crew foreman has authority over all winter maintenance operations. When it appears a major winter storm is in progress which might require special efforts on the part of the road crew (i.e. overtime hours) the town board chair shall be advised.

Operations

Stalled vehicles: Stalled vehicles shall not be moved by road crew personnel or equipment unless the vehicle is in the traveled roadway and endangering the traveling public.

Mailbox replacement: Damaged mailboxes will be repaired or replaced assuming the damaged mailbox was positioned correctly (on the outside edge of the shoulder) and sturdy enough to withstand wind, flying snow and slush from traffic and snowplows. Operators who hit mailboxes with their plow or wing shall note time and place of the incident and report same to the road crew foreman as soon as practical. All reports of damage shall be turned over to the town's insurance carrier as soon as practical.

Documentation of all incidents is mandatory and is the responsibility of the foreman.

Departure from Guidelines

The town of Arcadia recognizes that conditions may be so unusual or unexpected that a departure from these guidelines should be authorized. Therefore, when conditions warrant,

the town board chair, in consultation with the foreman and/or sheriff, may order a departure from these general rules when, in the chair's opinion, conditions warrant such action.

Adopted on November 9, 2017 by the town of Arcadia Board

Barbara G. Tock, Chairperson

Karen Geske, Supervisor No. 1

Donna Brogan, Supervisor No. 2