

Winter Operations Information for Residents

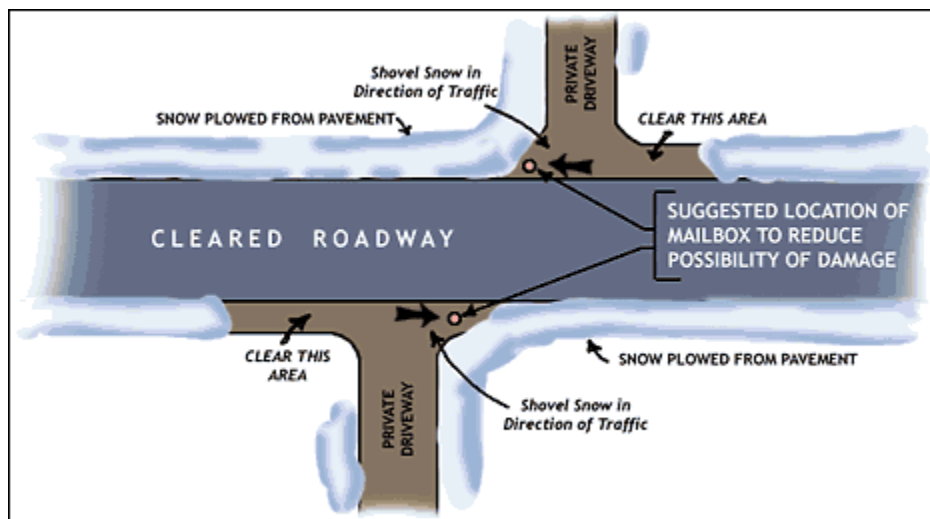
WHEN A STORM BEGINS:

For night time and weekend storms we rely on the Police Department to call our Foreman when road conditions deteriorate. When a snow storm begins (or freezing rain) we start work by first sanding or salting the major arteries and the in-town streets and collector roads. Our goal is to keep the roads as safe as possible and try to keep the snow or ice from bonding and packing to the pavement.

AS THE STORM CONTINUES:

When two to three inches of snow accumulates we begin plowing the roads. Again, we concentrate on the main arteries followed by the side streets and our goal is to keep the travel lanes open. We will continue plowing the routes until the storm subsides and then will go back over all routes to widen the roadways out and clean up and push back at the intersections. We must widen and wing back to maintain the road width. It will take us 3 to 4 hours to complete a typical plow route so for intense storms a significant accumulation can develop in the roadways while we are plowing - be prepared.

Below you will find a sketch showing how your driveway can be initially cleared to reduce the possibility that after the plow passes you will be snow bound again. We suggest that you clear your driveway in the manner suggested in the sketch. If you will shovel snow in the direction of traffic, and make a pocket next to your driveway as shown, snow accumulation on the plow will drop into that pocket and only a bare minimum will go into the driveway opening.



AFTER THE STORM:

On Maine Street we clear the sidewalks and then windrow the snow into the center of this wide street. We have 3.5 miles of sidewalks and once the storm diminishes we concentrate on opening them. We first do the downtown area and the school zone. Roads are our first priority and the school area sidewalks are next. It might take us 2 to 3 days to get to all the walks we do.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Make certain your vehicle is ready for winter driving and do not drive in winter storms unless necessary.
2. Reduce your speed. This is the #1 cause of winter accidents.
3. Please do not park in the roadway or shoulder area during a storm. This allows our plows to clear the area the first time through without having to return to clean it up later. Remember, parking on town roads from 12 midnight to 7 am is prohibited from November 15 to April 1 and anytime during a storm cars can and have been towed from the streets if they interfere with our work. Also, please do not place any rocks, marker posts or similar obstructions within 6 feet of the road edge. We need to plow out this area for drainage and space to put snow from future storms.
4. Do not shovel, snow blow or have your driveway plowed into or across the road. This is prohibited by law and can cause a serious traffic hazard. If possible, it is best to place snow on the side of your driveway opposite the direction from which the plow is coming. That way, the plow will carry snow away from your driveway rather than back into it.
5. If possible, wait until the highway has been plowed before cleaning out the end of your driveway. There is no practical way to plow the highway without depositing snow into your driveway. Please understand the Town cannot go back and shovel or plow out the end of any private driveway.
6. Help reduce the possibility of a broken mailbox post. All our plow operators are urged to take precautions to avoid hitting mailbox posts. However, experience has shown that with reduced visibility during a storm it is not always possible for a driver to see a post in time to avoid striking it with the wing of the plow. Any installation within the highway right-of-way, including a mailbox, is placed there at the owner's risk. Therefore, owners are encouraged to put mailboxes at the maximum usable distance back from the roadway pavement and we recommend a 42" mounting height with reflectors on the post. Posts should also be checked for deterioration such as rot to reduce the possibility of their being broken off simply by the weight of plowed snow.
7. Finally, please be patient Snow removal is an arduous and time consuming job. If a storm is of long duration, we are a small organization with limited reserves and the workers continue around the clock until the job is done. We strive for the safest streets and roads at a reasonable cost in the shortest period of time.