

TOWN OF WEST FAIRLEE WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN

Winter road Maintenance Priority:

1. Major traffic routes and bus routes.
2. Roads causing the most problems for the public based on traffic volume, steepness and curves, etc.,
3. Continue until all roads are serviced.

The circumstances involved with changing weather condition vary with each storm; the Town of West Fairlee does not have a black road policy. Travelers who use Town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during winter conditions.

The Town of West Fairlee hires a contractor with two (2) people to do winter maintenance on approximately 24 miles of Town highways. The contractor has a specific route based on the priorities above, which takes about 7-9 hours to complete. Routes may vary for emergency situations (fire, ambulance, etc.)

The Town does not plow, sand, or otherwise maintain class 4 roads, private roads or private driveways in winter.

Winter maintenance operations begin at 2:30 a.m. and 3:00 am to have major highways and bus routes clear by 7:00 a.m. In most cases, there will be no maintenance between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.

After 16 hours on the job, we are required to stop operations and get a minimum of six (6) hours of rest.

Mailboxes

Operators are instructed to be very cautious near mailboxes. In most cases, a properly installed mail box will permit a snow plow to clear snow under it. Most cases of damaged mailboxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. The mailboxes are not usually hit by the plow.

The town or it's agent assumes no liability for mailbox damage or loss.

If the Town or contractor dislodges a mail box from its location during a winter event, the Town or the contractor is not responsible for any damage done to the mail box and/or post.

Under Title 19, Section 111 "Prohibits Encroachments of the Towns Right-of-Way Without Approval" objects in the Towns right-of-way are placed at the owners risk and the Town or the contractor assume no responsibility for any damage to the objects placed in violation of the statutes. Common items are trees, fences, flowers, stone walls etc, all placed in the Towns right-of-way.

Salt will be applied to most paved roads, with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.

Driveway Entrances Blocked by Snowplowing

The town does not have an obligation to clear snow out or away from entrances. Considering the large number of driveways in the town, it would be too costly and unpractical to use town personnel and equipment to clean driveway entrances blocked by plowed snow. Things to be considered about snow removal from a driveway:

1. Standing in your driveway facing the road – shovel all your snow to the right at the driveway entrance. Thus, the snowplow will take the snow down the road when it passes by.
2. If possible, don't plow your driveway until after the snowplow has gone by.
3. State Statute Title 19 Section 111(b) prohibits plowing any snow from driveways on to the town road. You are liable for fines and damages. If you hire someone to plow your driveway, be sure they know the law concerning this matter.

Under Title 19 Section 111(b) plowing, blowing or shoveling of snow across or onto a Town or state highway is prohibited. A violator may be liable for damage to property, vehicles and any undue cost to the Town for removal of this snow.

Sand may be applied to gravel roads. Some particles may be as large as ¾" in size and may cause windshield damage. It is recommended that all travelers use caution and avoid following too closely. The Town or contractor will not at anytime pay for replacement or repair of windshields.

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