

## **TOWN OF WALPOLE SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL POLICY**

**POLICY:** It is the goal and intent of the Town of Walpole to provide timely, efficient and cost-effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the roadways of the municipality for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and the general motoring public.

**PROCEDURE:** The objective stated above will be achieved by implementation and executions of the procedures and tasks outlined in the town of Walpole Winter Operations Snow removal and Ice control Procedures. Because of the many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm and/or weather event may require slightly different effort and/or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together determine the overall winter maintenance tasks, which, together determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

**LEVEL OF SERVICE:** It is not possible to maintain a black snow and ice-free road or sidewalk during a storm. It is the intention of the Town to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during winter storms.

It is our policy to start to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulations of two inches of snowfall. The Road Agent may, at his or her discretion based upon weather information reports, elect to not remove snow until greater or lessor accumulations. The beginning of any storm is usually the hardest to drive in and conduct winter maintenance, so please watch the weather and plan accordingly.

Pre-treatment and ice control may be addressed prior to the actual storm beginning, during the actual storm as seen effective and proceeding the storm. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 25 degrees and may not be applied until it is warmer.

Sidewalk snow clearance will be conducted as possible during winter storms. Personnel availability and the needs to maintain safe roadways will take priority.

**AUTHORITY:** Direction of all winter maintenance activities for the Town of Walpole is vested with the Road Agent or his designee.

The Road Agent, with notification to the Select Board liaison, may hire outside contractors in cases where the snow/ice accumulations and/or the excessive length of a storm exceeds the Town's capacity to clear and maintain safe roadways.

**EXECUTION:** The policy outlined above is intended to serve as the normal operating procedures for winter maintenance, snow removal and/or ice control for the Town of Walpole. On or more of the following, which may delay or prevent the implementation of this policy, may affect all or any part of this Policy:

- Equipment Breakdown
- Snow Accumulation in Excess of 1" Per Hour
- Freezing Rain or Other Icing Conditions
- Traffic Congestion
- Emergencies
- Availability of Personnel

**EQUIPMENT:** The Highway Department utilizes all the assets of the department as needed to address snow emergencies.

**ROUTES:** Currently, the town is divided into six major plow and/or equipment routes. Each of the routes is assigned to one of each piece of the Town's equipment. Additionally, a truck with 4-way plow will be used to maintain emergency service facilities, municipal parking area, and to assist in support of trucks, and equipment assigned to specific routes.

The Town will remove snow from the downtown area to snow fields as it may restrict parking or line of sight distances at intersections. The Town utilizes a sidewalk snow blower to remove snow from assigned sidewalks.

**MATERIALS:** The Highway Department uses rock salt as a de-icing and anti-icing agent. Sand\* mixed with salt is used as an abrasive and is applied to the roads when deemed necessary to improve the public's motor vehicles traction. \*(a magnesium chloride solution sometimes mixed with the salt to improve its performance.)

WATKINS ROAD AROUND THE WELL AREA IS A LOW SALT AREA. Drivers should be aware that in order to protect the wellhead area Watkins Road will not be treated in the same manner as other Town Roads during snow or ice storms.

Any private driveway or sidewalk snow must not be plowed or shoveled into or across town roads or sidewalks, as this presents a hazard to the public.

SCHOOLS: The Highway Department does not have the responsibility for clearing of snow and winter treatment of the Town schools access road and parking lots. On days when school is in session, winter maintenance effort must be time to coincide with bus routing and delivery. The school representatives shall make the decision to cancel or postpone school for the day.

PLOW ROUTE PRIORITIES: With a total of many miles of roads from which to remove snow and control ice and a limited number pieces of equipment to handle this responsibility, the Highway Department has assigned priorities for winter maintenance route activity in order to maximize the effectiveness of their efforts for the motoring public.

A. School bus routes will be given the first priority during school days. Each plow route will ensure that the best possible snow clearance will be completed within one of hour of the bus route time if at all possible.

B. The business district will be maintained as early as possible during business hours, with the main snow clearance effort to be done during the snow parking curfew hours from 11:00 P.M. to 7 A.M. Public Safety is a very great concern in this area due to many cars and pedestrians in the area.

C. Transfer Station/Recycle Center; Transfer station personnel may be required to assist with the Town's general winter maintenance operations. If the facility is open during the snow or ice storm personnel will plow this area prior to opening for public use. Public areas shall be kept as clear as possible to provide as safe access as reasonably possible. Sand and other slip resistant materials shall be used in public areas. It often will not be possible to maintain clear ground, but a reasonable effort will be made during storms.

D. Fire Hydrants: The Fire Department clears fire hydrants as soon as possible.

#### ROADS AND SIDEWALKS NOT RECEIVING WINTER MAINTENANCE:

The Town of Walpole does not maintain a number of roadways and sidewalks as part of its ongoing winter maintenance activities. The areas not maintained by the Town may include:

- a. Town roads classified as Class VI roads.
- b. Private roads or ways.
- c. The section of Meetinghouse Road between County Road and Prospect Hill.
- d. Summer Maintenance only. (Summer parks parking areas, Swimming pool areas).
- e. School District sidewalks and parking areas, which is the responsibility of the school district.

**SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL:** Sidewalk snow clearance will not begin until all other snow removal operations are manned in progress. If there are insufficient personnel available to conduct sidewalk snow removal operations, as well as street and road clearance, the streets and roads shall take priority.

The maintained sidewalks will be treated with salt or sand as quickly as possible after the storm, if required.

If pedestrians or vehicles cause obstructions to the sidewalk snow removal operations, the Town's winter maintenance operators are encouraged to request their cooperation. Otherwise, the operator is expected to call the Police for assistance. The operator is cautioned to avoid confrontation at all possible costs.

**POST STORM OPERATIONS:** As determined by the Road Agent, the snowbanks resulting from the previous accumulations shall be pushed back or shelved, using the plow and wing of the grader or other suitable equipment to make space for future snowstorms. Snow removal from the three villages will be conducted during the night on main roads and during the day on side streets.

**DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY:** It should be noted that the municipality is not held responsible for damage to private property that is located within the public right of way. (RSA 231:92) The Right of Way (\*ROW) is often 50 feet wide and is often confused by property owners as their own property. In most cases, the ROW often extends 10-20 feet of either side of the paved or gravel road. Homeowners often cultivate extensions of their lawns, place mailboxes, erect fences or stonewalls in these areas, which improve the appearance of the street greatly but is obstructive to good maintenance from being conducted on the roadway.

In the event of personal property damage, the Town of Walpole will only be responsible to repair or replace damaged property having been in actual contact with the snow removal equipment that is on private property and not within the public right of way.