

Snow and Ice Control Policy
2020-2021
Richland County Highway Department
October 2020

SNOWPLOWING:

The snowplowing operation has the function of plowing accumulated snowfall from the County Highway system (referred to hereafter as County Roadways) in an attempt to provide clear, safe right-of-ways and functional traffic flow. The plowing responsibilities are divided up between County snowplow trucks and County motor graders. Although routes vary in length, each County truck has about 40 miles of roads to maintain and each County motor grader has 70 miles of roads to maintain. At the present, the County operates seven (7) truck routes and five (5) motor grader routes. The motor grader routes are primarily gravel roads.

The Department has only enough personnel to operate one shift daily.

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY:

Richland County shall attempt to provide the following minimum levels of service:

- (1) Snow removal shall begin when accumulation reaches a point where it inhibits traffic flow or is starting to compact on bituminous County Roadways. Plowing will continue on bituminous roads as visibility allows.
- (2) After the snowstorm subsides, all primary bituminous County Roadways shall be opened first, with secondary County Roadways next, and finally the Township B roads. Emphasis shall be placed on school bus routes.
- (3) All early morning snowplowing shall begin no later than 7:00 a.m., according to visibility. When visibility allows snowplowing will commence by 6:00 a.m.
- (4) The Department shall endeavor to have all County Roadways open to traffic within 24 hours after the snowstorm subsides, depending on conditions.
- (5) County Engineer and/or Road Foreman shall be available to advise area School Superintendents on road conditions, plowing progress and advise on school closings.
- (6) The County Engineer and/or Road Foreman shall make decisions on calling plows and crew in because of visibility, safety to employees and equipment, and to schedule different starting times during the week and weekends in the best interest of Richland County.
- (7) The Department shall suspend plowing operations when the Sheriff's Department or the North Dakota Department of Transportation advises no travel in Richland County.
- (8) The Department shall be available to assist in any emergency on public or private roads as directed by the Sheriff's Department.

ICE CONTROL:

Sanding operations shall attempt to provide the following levels of service:

- (1) The County does not have a "bare pavement" policy.
- (2) Sanding will be done with a mixture of sand and 20-25 percent of sodium chloride only.
- (3) Controlled intersections, curves and hills shall be sanded to provide skid resistance as soon as possible after plowing operations are completed.
- (4) Sanding operations shall begin no later than 7:00 a.m., except during the following conditions:
 - (a) Black Ice - (b) Freezing Rain.During these conditions, starting time will be at daylight or as directed by the County Engineer or Road Foreman.
- (5) Sanding on straight-of ways shall be done only in extreme conditions.
- (6) All sanding will be done on bituminous County Roadways only.
- (7) Isolated areas not generally sanded will be done when manpower and equipment become available and then only under the direction of the County Engineer or Road Foreman.

DRIVEWAY PLOWING:

It is prohibited by law for residents to place snow from their driveways onto public roads. Snow dumped, plowed, pushed, blown, or shoveled onto a roadway can create a serious hazard not only for motorists but, also for snowplow equipment.

Richland County prohibits the interference, obstruction or rendering dangerous for passage, any public highway or right-of-way used by the public. A person responsible for depositing snow onto a highway may be liable in a civil lawsuit if damages or injuries occur as a result of the action.

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE GOAL:

To keep people and products moving safely, with the least cost, and with safety to operator and the traveling public.

This policy supersedes all previously written documents, and unwritten policies, on the subject of snow removal and ice control.

This policy is in effect and in operation during any snow and ice condition unless the normal policy is superseded by a decision of the County Board, County Engineer and/or Road Foreman or as a change in policy by resolution.