



**TOWN OF DEERING  
762 DEERING CENTER ROAD  
DEERING, NH 03244**

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

It is the goal of the Town of Deering, NH, to provide a level of service to the community, which will ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicle and pedestrian traffic during snowfall/icing events, and provide for removal procedures and operational tasks.

### **General Maintenance Requirements:**

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#### *Snowfall less than 2"*

Generally, snow removal is not necessary, sanding procedures are adequate to provide safe driving conditions during inclement weather.

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#### *Snowfall of 2-6"*

Typically, snow removal begins as soon as practical after snowfall has ceased, depending on the timing of the snowfall event. Every effort will be made to provide safe driving conditions prior to "peak traffic hours".

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#### *Snowfall greater than 6"*

Each district has a system of primary and secondary streets that link neighborhoods, major arterial routes, and facilities such as schools, etc. Depending on the duration of any snowfall event, it may be necessary to continually clear primary streets in order to assure public safety.

Once snowfall has ceased, priority streets within each district will be cleared before snow removal begins on secondary streets. In addition to streets and alleys, the Highway Department is responsible for snow removal from parking areas at Town hall, and the Highway Department.

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#### *Equipment and Personnel*

The Highway Department has the following equipment used to remove snow from Town roads and parking areas: three (3) single axle trucks (with snowplows, wings and sanders) and one (1) ten-wheeled multi axle truck equipped with the same, one (1) grader with snowplow and wing, one (1) front-end loader, one (1) backhoe with loader, and one (1) one-ton with snowplow.

All Highway Department maintenance personnel will be available as needed for snow removal and deicing operations. In addition to this, seasonal or temporary

employees from the private sector may be used during extreme adverse weather conditions.

All calls or complaints from the public will be referred to the Highway Department during normal working hours. He will keep a running list of the problem areas reported and respond to those areas on a priority need basis.

The normal scheduled working hours are from 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

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#### *Call out procedures*

During regular scheduled working hours the Highway Department, with assistance from the Police Department, will monitor street conditions and are responsible for analyzing street conditions and determining when to begin snow removal and/or sanding operations.

During nonworking hours the Police Department will monitor street conditions. The dispatcher will notify the street superintendent after receiving notice from the law the enforcement shift supervisor of snow and ice conditions requiring attention.

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#### *Snow removal procedures*

If a snow or ice event occurs after or before normal working hours or on holidays or weekends the street superintendent or his/her designee will be notified by the dispatcher after receiving notice from the law enforcement shift supervisor. A snow emergency is defined as a point in time when 2" has fallen and it is still snowing or if weather forecasts indicate that additional snow will fall. At that time employees will begin plowing as close as practical to the time the snowfall ceases. The intent is to avoid plowing more than once for a single snowfall. Depending on the amount of snow, our goal is to remove snow from curb to curb within 48 hours on primary and secondary streets. Final clean up of areas will take place the next working day.

The Town is not responsible for snow/ice deposits in driveways or sidewalks due to the removal operations.

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#### *Plowing priorities*

In determining priority routes, considerations are given to topography, traffic volumes, and special usage. Heavily traveled routes are given greater priority over less traveled routes.

Streets adjacent to schools, medical centers, and commercial areas are given additional consideration. Necessary county roads and state highways outside the Town 's corporate limits will be maintained by the individual jurisdictions.

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#### *Sanding operations*

When streets become glazed or icy, sanding units will be dispatched to sand stop signs, intersections, hills, curves and other problem areas as needed. When icing conditions exist the dispatcher will notify the Highway Department immediately to

enact anti-icing or deicing procedures. All vehicle or pedestrian accidents will be served as a priority.

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### *General*

All of the above are standard procedures. These procedures may be modified by the Road Agent in case of emergency. Written snow removal maintenance procedures will be reviewed by the Road Agent annually and changes may be made if deemed necessary. The Board of Selectmen will authorize final approval.

To the extent that any previous rule, regulation, policy or past practice, written or unwritten, is in conflict with the provisions of this policy, such is hereby withdrawn, voided and all personnel should conduct themselves in conformity with the policy. This policy is not intended to create any duty to any individual member of the public or to protect any particular or circumscribed class of persons. All or parts of this policy may be affected by at least one or more of the following, which will delay all or some of the services provided:

- Equipment breakdowns;
- Vehicles disabled in deep snow;
- Weather so severe as to cause crews to be called in from the streets, (i.e. whiteout conditions/severe icing)
- Equipment rendered inadequate by the depths of the snow or drifts; crew breaks, and breaks required for fueling, refilling of material spreaders and installing chains or new blades; and
- Unforeseen emergencies.

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### *SNOW ROUTES*

1. **Primary**
2. **Secondary**
3. **Schools**

## **Additional Information:**

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### *Location of mailbox*

The Town is not responsible for the effects of plowing on your mailbox. Nor is the Town responsible for clearing the snow from around your mailbox. Mail and newspaper boxes are allowed, at the owner's risk, in the Town's right-of-way – for purposes of convenience. Claims for damages or other liabilities resulting from their installation are the responsibility of the owner.

The following are suggestions for reducing the possibility of damage and liability:

Mailboxes should be installed at least 3 feet from the edge of pavement.

Installations should be sufficiently sturdy to withstand the weight of heavy snow resulting from plowing operations.

*Only mailboxes that have been damaged by Town snowplows will be repaired by the Town.* If it is determined that the mailbox is damaged or knocked down due to the force of the snow the property owner is responsible for repair or reinstallation. Temporary repairs will be made by the Town to mailboxes that are hit by the Town plow to avoid interruption of mail service.

Permanent repairs will be made when weather permits. The Town is not responsible for sprinkler heads, shrubbery, planters or any decorative materials located in the right-of -ways, that are damaged as a result of snowplowing.

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### *Winter Parking*

*The Winter Parking Ordinance is in effect from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>.* During that time, no person shall park any motor vehicle on any public road between 12:00 midnight and 8:00 A.M. or at any other time in such a manner as to impede snow removal operations. Any vehicle parked in violation may be authorized to be towed by the Highway Department, Chief of Police or their agents, or by independent contractors engaged by the Highway Department or Chief of Police. Any vehicles so towed shall be stored and released to the owner only upon payment of the cost of towing. Any person violating this ordinance shall be subject to a penalty not to exceed \$50 for each offense.

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### *No Snow on the Streets*

The Department wishes to remind residents of the ordinance regarding placement of snow on the streets. No person is allowed to place any snow or ice upon the surface of the traveled portion of any Town maintained portion of a road or highway except with Town approval by the Road Agent or his designated representative. Anyone violating these by-laws shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding the following: first offense – written warning; second offense - \$50 penalty; and third offense - \$100 penalty.

Please remember, when you blow, shovel, or plow snow into the street, you are creating a very dangerous situation for drivers. The continuity of their speed, important to winter driving is interrupted, which can cause swerving and accidents.

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### *Town's Right-of-Way*

We would like to remind residents *not* to put bark mulch, crushed rocks, stonewalls, fences, irrigation systems, trees or lawns in the Town right-of-way. The Town has a 50-foot right-of-way (25 feet from the center of the road – which includes 13 feet from the edge of pavement) on Town maintained roads. The Town is not liable for damages that may occur to property in its right-of-way. These items may interfere with heavy equipment and become a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians. They often cause drainage failures, and thereby road deterioration.

In the process of snow removal if a property owner's grass is damaged, the damaged area will be repaired by the Highway Department in the spring. The Town is not responsible for cleaning of right-of-ways due to build up of sand or for dead grass due to chemical applications from Town de-icing operations.

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### *Cleaning of culverts*

Deering Homeowners may not be aware that they are responsible for maintaining their driveway culverts in order for the culvert to remain clean at all times (RSA: 13, VI). We ask that you periodically check your culverts and free them of debris. This will go a long way toward alleviating erosion and drainage problems in the future.

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### *Cleaning of catch basins*

It would be a tremendous help if the residents would help in keeping the catch basins clean from the falling leaves and pine needles.

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### *Driveway Permits*

All new constructions require a driveway permit. A driveway permit is also required if you are relocating or modifying an existing driveway.