



TOWN OF DEERFIELD

Highway – Transfer Station – Wastewater Departments

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Selectboard Policy 2014-03

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Introduction

The Town of Deerfield believes that it is in the best interest of the residents for the Town to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on the Town Streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The Town will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The Town will use town employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service.

As noted in the Code of the Town of Deerfield, no person shall deposit, throw or place or cause to be deposited, thrown or placed any ice or snow upon that part of any public way or sidewalk in the town.

Procedures

The Superintendent of Streets & Sewers or Assistant Superintendent will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

1. Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more.
2. Drifting snow that causes problems for travel.
3. Ice conditions that seriously affect travel.

Method of snow removal

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize traffic obstructions. Snow will be plowed from inside out except where it is windrowed and these areas are determined by the Highway Superintendent. In times of extreme snowfall, streets will not always immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

Snow Removal and Schedule

The Superintendent of Streets & Sewers or Assistant Superintendent will determine when snow will be removed by truck from the area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the street for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may be delayed depending on weather conditions and personnel availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located as to minimize environmental problems.

The Town has classified town streets based on the importance and the welfare of the community.

Priorities

1. Streets of the town that provide access for emergency fire, police, and medical services;
2. Streets that provide access to schools;
3. Streets that are low volume residential streets;
4. Areas are snow removal and sidewalks.

A snow event may be declared any time during the year at the discretion of the Superintendent of Streets & Sewers or Assistant Superintendent when two or more inches of snow or ice have covered or drifted over the street.

Use of Salt, Sand, and other Chemicals

The Town will use sand, salt, and other chemicals when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The Town is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

Sidewalks

The Town will maintain the sidewalks. As there are a limited number of personnel available the Town will only maintain these sidewalks after the streets have been plowed.

Parking Lots, Entrances, and Driveways

Responsibility for private parking lots, entrances to lots and driveways shall rest with the individual property owners. This includes the clearing of additional snow that may accumulate once the Town plows have gone by. Snow being put back onto private properties due to clearing to the streets will be the property owner's responsibility to remove or clear (not back into the street).

Placement of Snow on Public Property, Right-of-ways, or Obstructing Views

In accordance with State Law and the Code of the Town of Deerfield, it is unlawful for any person to place snow or ice upon public property, including public streets. Furthermore, cleared snow shall be piled and accumulated in a manner, which does not block visibility of drivers on public streets and alleys or cause other hazardous conditions. The Highway Superintendent, or his/her designee shall have the authority to notify property owners who violate this section, and shall require them to, in a timely fashion, remedy the situation. He / She may also notify the Town's Code Enforcement Officer to assist or do such activities as necessary. Removal of improperly placed snow will be billed to the property owner (assuming it is clear where the snow came from).

Property Damage

The Town recognizes that on occasion private property is damaged during snow and ice control operations. The Town shall repair damage to private real or personal property such

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action shall in no way set a precedent or create the requirement to take such action. Where this happens it shall be the policy of the Town to handle damages in the following manner:

1. **Mailboxes:** Where mailboxes are placed adjacent to the street, it shall be the policy of the Town that snow shall be plowed as close as practicable to the curb to allow for passage of traffic and mail delivery. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to keep piled snow away from mailboxes so mail can be delivered.

Where damage to mailboxes occurs, the Superintendent of Streets & Sewers or Assistant Superintendent shall investigate such damage. Where evidence indicates that snow caused damage to the mailbox, the homeowner will assume responsibility for the repair, and the town shall not be liable for any reimbursement. Where evidence indicates that physical contact occurred between the plow and the mailbox the Town shall reimburse the homeowner for repair costs. Said reimbursement shall not exceed \$50, and the the homeowner must provide a receipt as proof of replacement prior to receiving reimbursement.¹

2. **Street side grass.** It shall be the policy of the Town to repair any damage to grass where curbs are in place.

Street maintenance will repair the damage by re-laying the turned up pieces or placing dirt and grass seed (at appropriate times of year).

3. **Driveway Ramps.** The Town will not repair damage caused to driveway ramps where mountable curb is in place, unless authorized by either the Town Administrator or the Highway Superintendent.
4. **Fences and other encroachments.** The Town will investigate any notification regarding destroyed or damaged fences or other encroachments. If the Superintendent of Streets & Sewers or Assistant Superintendent determines that such damages were caused by Town snow operations, the repair or replacement of any such damages shall be approved by the Town Administrator. It will be the Town's discretion as to doing the work or having the property owner supply an estimate; the owner must present an invoice before payment will be made. No damages to fences located closer than eight (8) feet to the public right-of-way will be covered by the Town.
5. **Cars, vehicles, and trailers.** Any vehicle or trailer damaged by snow plowing operations due to illegal parking (in violation of the Town's Snow Parking Ordinance) shall be the owner's responsibility. Efforts will be made to tow or remove the illegally parked vehicle or trailer.

¹ REVISED by vote of Board of Selectmen, March 18, 2015, to include language regarding reimbursements, and reimbursement limits, and to remove language implying town's role in actually performing replacement of a damaged mailbox.

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Parking Restrictions During Snow Months

Restricted snow parking shall be in effect when existing weather conditions could severely impede vehicular traffic or snow and ice removal operations in the Town. Illegally parked vehicle owners shall be responsible for damage including but not limited to, damage to Town vehicles, public property and injury or harm to employees of the Town of Deerfield.

Commercial Operators

Operators of private snow removal services not hired by the Town, but operating within the Town limits, shall completely clean all snow pushed onto the Town streets and be liable for all damages caused to Town or Private property.

Code of the Town of Deerfield c.156 §6; Streets and Sidewalks: “No person shall deposit, throw or place or cause to be deposited, thrown or placed any ice or snow upon that part of any public way or sidewalk in the town”.

Such actions shall result in fees assessed to the property owner for the Town’s incurred removal expenses. Operators shall haul away excess snow not stored on property owner’s site. The Town will bill such incidences at the established fee rate for public works operations, with a minimum charged fee of One Hundred (\$100) dollars.

*Adopted by the Board of Selectmen, September 24, 2014
Revised by vote of Board of Selectmen, March 19, 2015*

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