

**PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT
SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

Snow and Ice removal operations within Clear Creek County are considered a vital part of the economic and social welfare of the county. Economics, however, require a balance between the level of service and the resources available to perform the service. The basic philosophy governing Clear Creek County Snow and Ice Removal Policy is that, except during blizzard conditions, all school bus routes on primary county roads will be plowed and/or sanded in a timely manner so as to provide for the reasonably safe accommodation of school bus traffic, and other primary county roads will be opened in time for mail delivery and in time for people to get to work, and will be kept open late enough for people to return home from work. With very limited exceptions, Clear Creek County will not provide snow and ice control during the nighttime hours.

Specific Clear Creek County snow and ice removal policies are as follows:

- 1) All of Clear Creek County's roads are categorized by the level of snow and ice removal efforts which will be devoted to them. The various levels of service, the roadways which fall within that level and the degree of service which will be devoted to snow and ice removal operations on each level are identified below.
 - **Primary County Maintained Roads:** This classification includes all current county roads that may carry school bus and mail delivery routes. During school days, Primary roads will be plowed and sanded to accommodate school bus schedules. Plowing and sanding operations will normally be carried out between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., during school days. On mail delivery days, Primary roads will be opened in time to accommodate mail delivery schedules. Plowing and sanding operations will normally be carried out between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on mail delivery days that are not school days. On days other than school and mail delivery days, plowing and sanding operations will be completed by 5:00 p.m.
 - **Secondary County Maintained Roads:** This classification includes the remaining roads in the County's maintenance system. These roads are typically residential access roads. Secondary roads which are maintained on a year round basis will be plowed and/or sanded after the resource requirements for the Primary roads are met. Which may mean second or third day service and they may not receive snow removal with each snowfall.
 - **Secondary County Non-Maintained Roads:** All other County roads that do not receive any County maintenance or snow removal.
- 2) As noted earlier, in the event that blizzard conditions exist with high winds, extremely low visibility, etc., Clear Creek County will not attempt to provide any snow and ice control services for any of the above levels of service until the blizzard conditions have ended.
- 3) Clear Creek County will spread sand only on steep hills, curves and intersections, and will not spread sand continuously along roadways. Continuous sanding will be done only when, in the opinion of the Road and Bridge Supervisor, it is necessary in order to provide a reasonably safe driving surface for the average motorist.

- 4) Nighttime snow and ice control services will be performed only during: a fire when emergency responders cannot negotiate ice buildup, an emergency on the Interstate Highway when CDOT is requesting support, or for other short term multi-agency emergencies that the on-call Road and Bridge Supervisor deems necessary to respond to.
- 5) Clear Creek County will address problem areas such as access to mailboxes, isolated slick spots, etc. only after all County maintained roads are open for traffic.
- 6) Given the topographic and remote characteristics of the County's roads, and the possible diverse weather conditions, all motorists are expected to have their vehicles equipped with tire chains and adequate snow tires during inclement weather.
- 7) Clear Creek County will not provide towing service for private or public vehicles which are stuck in the snow or have run off the road.
- 8) Clear Creek County will not be responsible for any damage to newspaper delivery boxes or to rural mailboxes unless they are physically struck by County equipment. It is the homeowner's responsibility to see that paper boxes and/or mailboxes are properly placed, according to County specifications, and are marked and sturdy enough to ensure that they will not be damaged or destroyed by snow being thrown from passing snowplows. Clear Creek County will replace mailboxes which are physically hit by snowplows, provided that the mailboxes are properly located and installed as per County specifications.
- 9) The practice of pushing snow onto or across Clear Creek County's roadways endangers the traveling public as well as plow truck operators. The Statutes of the State of Colorado make it unlawful to store snow on the public way. Clear Creek County residents may receive a warning and/or summons for snow pushed onto the County's right-of-way from driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.
- 10) Clear Creek County will not plow private drives except in the case of a life threatening emergency. Any emergency request will be forwarded to the Sheriff's Office for investigation and confirmation prior to Clear Creek County plowing any private driveways. In the case of a fraudulent emergency claim, prosecution will be pursued to the fullest extent of the law.
- 11) When plowing snow on the first day of a storm plow operators will make no attempt to angle plow blades away from driveways, unless the property owner is engaged in the process of digging out the driveway. This defeats our purpose of finishing the route in a timely fashion. However, during cleanup work snow will not be re-deposited in front of driveway approaches.