



**POLICY AND PROCEDURE  
HANDBOOK**

**PUBLIC WORKS  
PW – 016**

**POLICY:  
SNOW AND ICE CLEARING  
LEVEL OF SERVICE**

**POLICY:**

Beaver County Council is committed to maintaining its road network in the winter that ensures safety to the travelling public and manages snow removal and ice control on a priority basis.

**APPLICATION TO VISION STATEMENT:**

*“An integrated, proactive community where innovation and progressive, practical leadership will forge a legacy for future generations through balanced environmental and economic sustainability.*

*Ready and prepared for diverse growth, we will preserve our area as "a place to call home" through open, transparent engagement to ensure an ongoing safe, resilient community.”*

**Definitions:**

- “County” means Beaver County.
- “Gravel roads” means roads which are not hard-surfaced and are surfaced with gravel.
- “Hard-surfaced” means an asphalt pavement, concrete, or chip-sealed surface.
- “Senior Citizens” means residents of a property where at least one occupant is 65 years of age or older. In the case of properties on which more than one dwelling is located, at least one occupant of each dwelling must be 65 years of age or older to receive enhanced services under this Policy.
- “Severe Snow Event” means a winter storm which has made numerous County roads impassable and is adversely affecting the ability of County crews to keep the roads open.
- “Snow and Ice Control” means plowing of snow from the driving lanes of County roads and the application of sand, sand and salt mix, anti-icing chemicals, or a combination thereof as required.
- “Snow Removal” means the removal of snow accumulations from the road or road allowance through the use of front end loaders, track dozers, snow blowers, trucks, or a combination thereof.

Council Approval

Date: February 19, 2014

Motion: 14-035

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Last Revision: September 16, 2013

**Policy Statements:**

1. Snow and Ice Control will generally commence when snowfall accumulation reaches 100 mm. The County will endeavour to clear bus routes, major collector roads, and resource roads within 48 hours and all minor collector roads and local roads within 72 hours, unless weather conditions do not allow these timelines to be met, or in the event of a Severe Snow Event.
2. Snow and Ice Control may be commenced before accumulations have reached 100 mm if, in the opinion of the County, road conditions could become unsafe if left uncleared.
3. Snow and Ice Control priorities are as follow:
  - a. All bus routes;
  - b. All major collector and resource roads which are not bus routes;
  - c. All minor collector roads which are not bus routes;
  - d. All local roads which are not bus routes;
  - e. Roadways and driveways used to access emergency service providers (e.g. fire halls);
  - f. Private driveways;
  - g. Private approaches (if not done as part of snow clearing);
  - h. Public facilities as requested (e.g. community halls);
  - i. Unmaintained road allowances used for agricultural purposes, on a per request basis as equipment and resources are available.

Equipment operators may vary from the order of priorities outlined above, when in his/her sole discretion, it is more advantageous to the County to immediately plow a road, driveway, or approach than to return after completing higher priorities.

4. The County will utilize preventative measures wherever possible to mitigate snow and ice accumulations on roadways (e.g. clearing of roadside brush and trees, installation of snow fencing, and use of anti-icing materials).
5. Snow Removal will only be undertaken in the following circumstances:
  - a. Snow accumulations, particularly at intersections, are negatively impacting drivers' sightlines;
  - b. Large snow accumulations in rural ditches are negatively impacting an equipment operator's ability to clear the entire width of a road and these accumulations are contributing to further snow drifting conditions; and
  - c. In hamlets, where windrows and snow accumulations are negatively impacting the width of a road's driving lanes.

6. Claims will not be considered by the County for property damage to structures or vegetation on private property or to vehicles on County roads as a result of Snow and Ice Control or Snow Removal efforts.
7. Claims will not be considered for damage to a ditch or area within a County road allowance which has been landscaped or improved by a resident without the express written permission of the County.

**SEVERE SNOW EVENT**

8. In the case of a Severe Snow Event, the County will provide the necessary resources and response to mitigate the impact to County residents and to reduce the potential damage to County-controlled infrastructure. External resources may be hired in these circumstances at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer or his designate. The health and safety of the County's equipment operators will not be compromised in its response to a Severe Snow Event.
9. In the case of a Severe Snow Event, the County may only open a single driving lane to maximize the number of accessible roads, before returning to open the entire roadway.

**PRIVATE SNOW CLEARING**

10. The County may provide private Snow and Ice Control services subject to the following conditions:
  - a. The County will provide the service at its discretion subject to the priorities established by this Policy.
  - b. The resident will sign a right-of-entry agreement provided by the County.
  - c. The County will determine whether the service can be provided without causing damage to property or to County equipment in terms of width of area or turning area.
  - d. Owner will contact the County Office when his/her driveway requires the service. The County's equipment operator will complete the service at his/her discretion for the optimum benefit of the area requiring Snow and Ice Control. The equipment operator will submit to the County Office, a time and location for billing purposes.
  - e. The County may establish a fee for service for private Snow and Ice Control.
  - f. Where a property is not clearly marked with a rural address sign, the County may not provide the service.
  - g. The County will provide the service for no more than 1 hour per driveway per request.

11. Private Snow and Ice Control will be provided to Senior Citizens, residents with mobility challenges that prevent them from clearing their driveways, and residents who temporarily require 24 hour emergency access to their property for medical reasons, on the following basis:

- a. All conditions in Section 10 of this Policy will apply, except for the following:
  - i) There will be no charge for Snow and Ice Control services to Senior Citizens and residents with mobility challenges to a maximum of 6 times per calendar year.
  - ii) There will be no charge for Snow and Ice Control services to residents who require 24 hour emergency access for medical reasons to a maximum of 6 times during the temporary period of illness.
  - iii) The County will provide the service for no more than 30 minutes per request.