



Jefferson County

Road and Bridge Department

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Boulder, Mt 59632

Snow Removal Policy

2024

The procedures and priorities outlined in this policy are for normal storm events. They may change during extreme weather and emergency situations.

Districts: Each operator is assigned a certain area for snow plowing during the year. When the need arises, operators may assist in other areas of the County, depending on snow conditions.

Priority 1- School bus routes and arterial roads.

Priority 2- Major Subdivision collectors and other high volume paved routes.

Priority 3- Internal subdivision roads, low volume paved routes, gravel roads.

Priority 4- Cul-de-sacs, dead-ends, other low volume roads as needed.

Gravel roads will not be plowed until the ground is frozen to reduce damage to the road and equipment. Non improved gravel roads will not be plowed.

The County is only responsible for plowing maintained county roads.

Operations: The County utilizes snowplows, motor graders, and loaders for snow removal. Abrasive material used to improve traction once a snow or ice floor is established is a 5% salt to sand mixture.

Snow fences are established in areas to prevent drifting of snow on roadways in high wind areas.

Procedures: County roads will be kept as passable and as safe as natural occurrences allow. Winter storms vary in duration and severity. Officials will use forethought, judgment, and skill to match maintenance applications to winter storms and allowable budget. As a storm moves in, a likely sequence might be:

1. Observe weather predictions.
2. Observe the presence of snow and ice.
3. Plow to remove excessive snow.
4. Continue to plow and apply abrasives in key areas such as intersections and curves.

General Policies: Normal snow removal activities shall be conducted during daylight hours between 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Mon-Thurs.

If there is a storm predicted or conditions require, operators will be scheduled for Friday hours.

Upon the discretion of the Road & Bridge Supervisor, crews may be called in for evenings or weekends in special situations. These situations may include snowfall greater than 3" or extreme ice.

The County will not plow snow during high winds unless it is an emergency.

The County will not be liable for any fence damage that occurs to fences which lie within the County's right-of-way.

The County will not be liable for any mailboxes knocked over or damaged due to snow being plowed. The County will replace any mailbox which is physically hit by a county snowplow or equipment. Mailboxes will be replaced with a standard mailbox.

The County will make a reasonable effort to not plow berms of snow into driveways and approaches whenever possible, however the county is not responsible for any snow or berms plowed into driveways.

The County is not responsible for damage to vehicles or windshields caused when the vehicle is following a snowplow.

It is unlawful for a resident or business to plow snow from a private driveway, road, or parking lot onto or across a county road.

When necessary, the county shall sand paved roads at major intersections, hills, curves, etc.

Graveled roads will be sanded only in emergency situations, or at the discretion of the Road & Bridge Supervisor.

Sanding during heavy snowfall events will be limited because the sand is quickly covered and removed as additional plowing occurs.

Streets and roads on which vehicles have been abandoned or otherwise parked, restricting the safe and continuous operation of snow removal equipment may not be plowed until the vehicles are removed. Vehicles may also be towed at the owner's expense.

Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to be prepared for winter driving and to slow down and drive according to the road conditions.

Be prepared for delays in snow removal operations during major snow events.

Always maintain a safe distance when travelling near snow removal equipment and to never pass a snowplow on a county road.