



TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

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Trout Lake Township Road Snowplowing Policy

Adopted December 15, 2011

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to improve citizen awareness of snow removal procedures for increased safety to the motoring public by defining 1) when snowplows will be dispatched, 2) how snowplows are operated, and 3) liability for personal property. This policy will also guide consistent town government practices and the handling of complaints and requests for further services regarding snow and ice control.

A. When Snowplows Are Dispatched

1. The season to dispatch snowplows is October 1 through March 31.
2. Trout Lake contracts snowplowing services for town roads whenever snow accumulation surpasses three inches or more.
3. Snowplowing usually will not begin until after a snowfall has stopped. During extended periods of snowfall, exceptions may be made. Snowplows will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility.
4. Exceptions¹ to this policy may occur at times when determined by the road superintendent and authorized by the town board.

B. How Snowplows Operate

1. Snow will be plowed in a manner as to minimize traffic obstructions.
2. Clearing of roads begins by making one lane in each direction passable. More plowing follows to widen the lanes to the edge of the shoulders.
3. Sanding (an 8-10% salt to sand mixture) is done in problem locations at intersections, curves, and hills when temperatures are above 20° F; below that temperature salt is ineffective and only sand is applied.
4. Performance expectations coincide with *Minnesota Snow and Ice Control Field Handbook for Snowplow Operators* published by University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies--a copy provided to the town's contractor. The independent contractor remains free to exercise initiative, judgment, and discretion in how best to perform or provide the services.

C. Who is Liable for Personal Property

1. It is the responsibility of owners to keep the road rights-of-way clear of vehicles, trailers, trash cans, fences, and other items of personal property in order to facility proper snow and ice control operations. Mailboxes must be properly installed.
2. It is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across town/county roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. The piles also increase chances of drifting snow onto the roadway. Accidents and damages caused by such situations may result in liability to the property owners.

D. Complaints and Requests for Further Services

Communication should be directed to the road superintendent, and the road superintendent shall forward such complaints and requests to the Board for consideration.

Adopted this fifteenth day of December, 2011

Supervisor-Chair Haverkost

Supervisor Vice-Chair Partlow

Supervisor Tanner

Clerk attest & date

ⁱ Lany Cartway and Willow Drive are under Volunteer Service Agreements and excluded from this policy.