

IOWA COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 22

IOWA COUNTY SNOW & ICE POLICY

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ESTABLISHING THE POLICY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE IN RESPECT TO CLEARANCE OF SNOW AND ICE AND MAINTENANCE OF IOWA COUNTY'S SECONDARY ROADS DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF IOWA COUNTY, IOWA:

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE:

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish Iowa County's new policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, specifically defined as November through April, as provided in Chapter 668.10(1)(b), Code of Iowa and pursuant to the provisions of Section 309.67, Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, as contained in this County's secondary Road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The clearance of roads at any cost, under any circumstances, day or night, is not the County's policy. If emergency situations arise, the Budget maybe revised.

SECTION 2 – LEVEL OF SERVICE:

Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of this County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in compacted condition. These conditions maybe continuous, or they maybe more concentrated on hills, valleys, curves and/or intersections. The County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose. All clearance of snow or ice, sanding, salting and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service. The entire width of that portion of the road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch or right of way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both the left and right maybe greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in its corners in piles of unequal height. The line of sight, sight distance or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections maybe greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others.

Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, reduced or impaired visibility and are advised to reduce their speed at least 25 miles per hour below that legally permitted or advised under normal conditions.

In respect to roadways that have only one lane open further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by the motorist and there speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour. During these conditions no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed warning of impaired sight distance, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

SECTION 3 – SEQUENCE OF SERVICE:

In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the County's secondary road system during the winter months, the County Engineer or his/her delegated representative shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provide for in this Section of this Ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, for reasons of hazardous visibility or due to lack of progress in removal or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of other roads.

Generally, priorities will be all paved and oiled roads. Stone surfaced roads with residences will be the next priority and the main Farm to Market routes having preference in this category while dead end roads will be last in this category. Stone surfaced roads will first be cleared to enable everyone access from one direction. These roads then will be opened to two-way traffic. Next, the connecting type stone-surfaced roads will be plowed to provide for more direct travel between various points. Finally, dirt roads and stone surfaced roads with no residences along them will be the last priority and may not be plowed if there is no need. Stone-surfaced or dirt roads maybe cleared out of sequence where it would contribute to efficiency or snow removal unit routing or progress.

Snow removal units will not normally be in operation from dusk to a couple hours before dawn, Monday through Friday. On Saturday, Sundays or holiday, the normal level of service will be implemented if conditions warrant. Only in cases of emergency as set out in this Ordinance will snow removal units operate from 6:00 PM to 4:00 AM. In the event of a severe storm with severe drifting, all roads will be opened to one-way traffic until all rural residents have a way out. Then plowing will continue to develop two-way traffic. There is no limit after a storm subsides within which any portion of the policy set by this Ordinance shall be implemented. The County Engineer's professional judgment or his/her designee's shall prevail unless it is clearly erroneous.

A. PAVED ROUTES

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible. Operation will normally begin upon cessation of the storm, within the guidelines of this section.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hour.
3. It is not the policy of the county to provide “dry” pavement condition.
4. After roads have been plowed as provided in this section, intersections, hills and curves may have sand, salt or other abrasives placed on them. This spreading will normally stop when air temperature is 20 F or lower. These intersections, hills and curves may not be re-sanded, re-salted nor have abrasives applied to them between storms.
5. Snow removal units will normally begin operation after an accumulation of two (2) inches of snow.

There is not time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequence of clearance, on paved or unpaved roads, shall take place.

B. UNPAVED ROADS

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes opened to one-lane traffic as soon as possible during daylight hours after a storm has subsided.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. Gravel roads may not be plowed if the wind is causing continual drifting.
4. Snow may not be removed from roads designated as Level B.

SECTION 4 – LIMITATIONS OF SERVICE

The policy and level of service provided for in this Ordinance shall not include the performance of the following services:

- A. Sanding, salting or placing of other abrasives upon the roadway that are slick, slippery and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- B. Sanding, salting or placing of other abrasives upon the paved roadways due to freezing rain that occurs outside the County’s usual working hours, Monday

through Friday. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, the normal level of service will be implemented if ice formations warrants.

- C. Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockage, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed limit should be.
- D. Sanding, salting or placing abrasives upon any road, except for paved roads. If in the opinion of the County Engineer, or his/her designee, an “emergency” exists and ice has built up on hills and intersections on the gravel system that slope down to another road so as to become dangerous, abrasive materials may be applied at these locations as crew and equipment availability allows. This condition will not take a higher priority than placing of abrasive material on the paved road system and will only be done after the paved roads are cleared of ice and snow. Abrasive material will also only be placed after other mechanical means have been tried and failed.
- E. Re-sanding or re-salting for freezing and thawing between storms, outside the County’s usual working hours.
- F. Removing of sand, salt or other abrasives.

SECTION 5 – EMERGENCY

- A. The sequence of service may be suspended during “emergency” conditions. An “emergency” condition shall be considered as one where a loss of life is probable, where serious injury has occurred or where extensive loss of property is imminent. These conditions should be verified through the Sheriff’s Office. The County will respond to all “emergency” conditions, either during or after a snowstorm.
- B. The provision of this Ordinance shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State disaster plan or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the County disaster plan. If such occurs, the County personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 6 – MISCELLANEOUS

A. PRIVATE DRIVES

The County will not clear snow from private drives. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private drives. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders.

B. MAILBOXES

The types of mailboxes erected in the County Right of Way are at the discretion of the owner, as long as said mailboxes are not considered obstructions in the Right of Way. The County will not pay for damaged mailboxes unless physical contact is made by snow removal equipment. If physical contact is made by snow removal equipment the County will replace existing mailbox with an 8 ¾" H x 6 ¾" W x 19" D steel or aluminum mailbox or pay the owner of said mailbox the equivalent of aforementioned unit (\$20.00). Resident should mark mailboxes in drift prone areas to help road workers avoid them. Claims for damaged mailboxes are to be submitted to the Engineer's Office within 48 hours to be considered for payment. (per addendum passed Nov. 6, 2011)

C. FENCES

The County will not pay for fences damaged during snow removal operations unless physical contact was made by snow removal equipment. Claims for damaged fences are to be submitted to the Engineer's Office within 30 days to be considered for payment.

D. OBSTRUCTIONS

Obstructions on the road right of way (hay bales, vehicles, fences, etc.) which may cause snow drifts and/or interfere with snow removal operations are to be removed by the owners.

The county will not be liable for damage to any obstructions interfering with snow removal operations.

Obstructions not removed by owner will be removed at owner's expense as provided in the Code of Iowa, in Section 331.362(7) and Chapter 318.

E. STALLED AND STRANDED VEHICLES

The County will not be liable for damage to vehicles stalled or stranded on the traveled portion or shoulder of roads, during snow removal operations.

The owner of stalled vehicles should immediately notify the Sheriff's Department as to the location of the vehicle. Owners shall remove stalled or stranded vehicles as soon as possible. Vehicles obstructing snow removal operations will be removed at the owner's expense.

G. AGRICULTURAL NECESSITIES

Owners with livestock, feed or hay located on Level B roads are advised that regular snow removal on these roads will not be done and they should govern their livestock accordingly.

SECTION 7 – REPEALER:

Iowa County Ordinance No. 21 – SNOW AND ICE is hereby and herein repealed as are any and all other ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith.

SECTION 8 – SEVERABILITY:

If any section, provision, or part of this policy shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the policy as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 9 – WHEN EFFECTIVE:

This ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Effective Date: November 15, 1999

Amended: December 19, 2018