

Town of Rensselaerville Snow and Ice Removal

Plan of Operation.

Overview

The Town of Rensselaerville is no stranger to severe winter weather and our residents have battled it for several hundred years. Our goal with the adoption of a Snow and Ice removal plan is not to re-invent the wheel but rather inform the public of our operation and reasoning behind it. The unique geography, limited resources, and concern for residents and employee's safety alike has helped shape our snow and ice removal program.

The mission of the highway department is to provide residents with safe roads throughout the year in the most economical way possible. We are fortunate to have skilled employees who perform these tasks with professionalism and a great respect for our community.

The Snow and Ice Removal Plan of Operation provides a guideline of what residents can expect from the Highway Department and what they can do to help.

Before It Snows

In early fall the Highway department begins preparing for winter operation. Our salt and sand are mixed at a rate of 25% salt to 75% washed stone screenings. This is an economical mixture that provides traction during a storm while still melting off the road surface. Plows and wings are dressed on our trucks, equipment is serviced or repaired and any necessary training is provided. During this time, we look for any drainage issues that would cause damage to our roads throughout the winter and address them to the best of our ability. In some circumstances when extreme icing events are predicted we may pre-treat all or some of the roads with salt or a mix of salt and screenings.

During a Winter Weather Event

No two winter weather events are the same and we do our best to adjust to what mother nature deals us. Typical start time will occur after 2 inches of snow has fallen. Call in time during a normal snow event will be between 3:30 am and 4:00 am with a start time during the week of 4:00 am and 5:00am on weekends and holidays. The Town of Rensselaerville maintains 77.39 miles of Town Road, many

of which are steep and difficult to navigate. With a full crew and no mechanical problems, we operate 7 plow routes. Using six large dump trucks and one small pickup. It takes 3.5 hours to complete one round when plowing and sanding in both directions. After the initial start of the storm, we will continue ice and snow removal throughout the duration of the storm or until 9:00pm. We will make every attempt to have crews off the road by 9:00pm for the safety of the crew. In some circumstances including but not limited to extreme snowfall rates and significant icing event it may be necessary to continue plow and de-icing operations throughout the night. It will be the determination of the Highway superintendent weather there is a need for overnight operations. Town residents should assume there will be no plowing and sanding operations throughout the night. The Highway department is ready to respond to any emergency during the night if needed.

The Town of Rensselaerville does not have a bare road policy. Although every reasonable attempt will be made to keep hard surfaced roads free of snow and ice there may be times especially in extremely cold weather where it is not reasonable or economical to do so. During these periods traction material will be applied to accommodate safe travel and when the weather moderates, we will continue de-icing operation. Many of our roads are not asphalt roads and special attention is taken to the amount of salt used on these thoroughfares. Too much salt when a warm up occurs can create an extremely soft muddy road which can also become dangerous. Therefore, we use enough material for safe travel but attempt to leave the road surface frozen.

It should be understood that our plan for snow and ice removal is based on a full crew and limited mechanical failure. During such times and during extreme weather events every reasonable effort will be made to safely treat and plow our roads. However, the timeframes and operational plan may need to be adjusted to meet our end goal.

Priority

We understand that travel during winter weather is sometimes necessary and unavoidable. We take pride in taking care of all our roads however priority is given to roads with the most traffic, difficult hills, and school bus routes. In the event that we are operating in less than full capacity. School bus routes will

receive top priority followed by the most heavily traveled roads. We appreciate the understanding from residents as we will always attempt to do our jobs to the best of our ability.

After the Storm

Crews will continue to ensure the roads are free of drifts and icy spots. We will work on pushing back snow banks in preparation of future snow events and to clear drainage ditches and culverts in an attempt to minimize washouts if a heavy rain event is to follow. Equipment will be washed and prepared for any additional weather that may occur.

Mailboxes and Newspaper Boxes

Boxes are usually placed in the Town of Rensselaerville's right of way. They are allowed there merely as a convenience to the property owner. Town crews will make every effort to avoid damage to these structures, however it may at times depending on weather conditions and visibility be unavoidable. Therefore, the Town of Rensselaerville takes no responsibility for damage to mailboxes or newspaper boxes. Most damage to mailboxes is caused by snow being carried off of the plow and not a direct hit of a plow or wing. At the Highway Superintendents discretion, a mailbox that has been physically struck by a Town of Rensselaerville truck may be repaired or replaced by the department.

Helping us Help You

There are certainly things Town residents can do to help the department safely do our job.

Please keep the roadway and shoulders of the road free of obstacles. Our plow trucks are very large and visibility can be difficult at times. Things like basketball hoops, flower pots, stumps, large rocks, garbage cans, etc. should be no closer than 8 feet from the edge of the pavement.

Please don't park on the street. In order for us to properly clear the roads we ask that you please not park on town roads during and shortly after a winter weather event.

Keep culverts clear of ice and snow. Although it is ultimately the responsibility of the highway department, keeping culverts near and under driveways clear of ice and snow helps prevent unnecessary wash outs, flooding and erosion.

Be mindful of our equipment and operators. Our crews work long hours during the winter months. Every effort is made to insure they have ample time to rest but the nature of the job has us operating for long periods of time with erratic hours. Our equipment is large and visibility is limited. Please do not attempt to pass our equipment and give us plenty of room on the road.

When shoveling snow, attempt to move snow in the direction the plow will be traveling. This helps us from pushing snow back into driveways that have already been cleared.

Please do not push snow in the road. This is illegal and can create dangerous conditions.

Questions and Concerns

As always, if you have any questions or concerns now or in the future feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Highway Superintendent

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