

CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

1. Introduction.

The City of Chippewa Falls believes that it is in the best interest of the residents of the City to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on city streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The City will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The City will use city employees and equipment to provide this service.

The City of Chippewa Falls will strive to maintain safe conditions for drivers observing winter driving conditions. However, this is not an absolute “bare pavement” policy.

It must be recognized that, although this policy sets general guidelines to be followed, each storm has its own character with variable conditions. The policy must remain flexible and take into consideration these variables.

2. Determination of need for snow and ice control procedures.

The on call personnel shall generally keep themselves apprised of changing weather conditions. However, the Chippewa Falls Public Works relies heavily on the observations of the Chippewa Falls Police Department personnel and various other sources to alert them to road conditions.

The on call personnel will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. Total snow accumulation of approximately 2 to 3-inches or more;
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- D. Time of snow in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Generally, operations will continue until all roads are passable. Widening and cleanup operations may continue immediately or on the following work day depending on conditions and circumstances. Safety of the plow operators and the public is important. Therefore, snow plowing/removal operations may be terminated after a period of time to allow personnel adequate rest. There may be instances where this is not possible depending on storm conditions and other circumstances. Operations may also be suspended during times of limited visibility, significant winds or severe cold for employee safety and equipment preservation. Any decision to suspend operations shall be made by on call personnel based on the conditions of the storm. The City will provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services on an “as-needed” basis during the major snow or ice storm.

3. How snow will be plowed.

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. Generally, the center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. The discharge shall go into the boulevard area of the street.

CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

4. Snow removal.

Responsible city personnel will determine when snow will be removed by truck from the area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the boulevard for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snowplowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

5. Priorities and schedule for which streets will be plowed.

The City of Chippewa Falls maintains approximately 100 miles of streets. The City has classified city streets based on function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Routes will be plowed in the most cost effective and timely manner. Those streets classified as Priority #1 will be plowed first. These are high volume routes which connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services.

Priority #2 streets are those streets providing access to schools and commercial businesses.

Where steep hills or other safety concerns exist a street may be advanced to a higher priority for plowing. For operating efficiency some lower priority streets may be done when equipment is in the area rather than returning later. This will vary by storm severity.

Priority #3 streets are low volume residential streets.

Priority #4 areas are alleys and city parking lots.

6. Weather conditions.

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of employees or equipment, and operations are effective. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include but are not limited to: severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility and rapid accumulations of snow and/or ice.

7. Use of sand, salt and other chemical.

The City will use sand, salt and other chemicals when there is hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The City is concerned about cost and the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason. Even after reasonable care, snow and ice may still build up.

8. Sidewalks.

Sidewalks are addressed in Ordinance #8.11.

9. Emergency situations.

For emergency vehicles responding to situations (fire, medical, police) within the city, or Fire Department/Police Department jurisdiction, necessary employees and equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible.

CITY OF CHIPPEWA FALLS SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

10. Damage.

Only legal properties allowed by city ordinance to be adjacent to streets and damaged by actual contact with city equipment will be considered for repair or replacement at city expense. Damage to trees, shrubbery and other landscaping will not be considered for compensation.

11. Driveways.

One of the most frequent problems in plowing snow from public streets is snow deposited in driveways. The operators make every attempt to minimize the amount of snow deposited in driveways; however due to the inherent design of plow equipment the amount can still be significant. Due to established policies, city personnel do not provide driveway cleaning. Possible exemptions are at the discretion of on call personnel for a fire or medical emergency situation.

12. Mailboxes.

Where mailboxes are placed adjacent to the street it shall be the policy of the City to plow as close as practical to the curb to allow for passage of traffic and mail delivery. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to keep piles snow away from the mailboxes so mail can be delivered.

13. State of Wisconsin/Chippewa County Plowing.

Certain streets, such as sections of STH 124, within the City are maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation or Chippewa County and are subject to other maintenance policies.

14. Parking

The City of Chippewa Falls has adopted various ordinances for parking restrictions, which are modified periodically.

15. Complaints.

Complaints regarding snow and ice control or damage shall be taken by the Public Works Department during normal business hours Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm at (715) 726-2736. Complaints involving access to property or problems requiring immediate attention shall be handled on a priority basis. Response time may vary for any complaint. It should be understood that complaint responses are to ensure that the provisions of this policy have been fulfilled and that all residents of the City have been treated uniformly.