

Morris County Highway Department

Winter Storm Policy

Approved by the board of County Commissioners on: January __, 2011

The County Highway Department in an effort to provide the best overall benefit to local residents and the traveling public with the limited resources available do hereby establish a "Winter weather Snow and Ice removal policy.

This policy will pertain to snow and ice removal on all county roads. Snow and Ice removal will normally be performed between the hours of 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. The county will not normally plow roads with less than two (2) inches of accumulated snow or one eighth(1/8) inch of accumulated ice; during overtime hours on normal work days or weekends and holidays. Snow and ice accumulation during these times may necessitate the use of traction devices and precautionary driving by the road users. During winter storms, drivers should carry the appropriate precautionary winter gear and use common sense.

The County will respond to all legitimate emergencies (threat to life, health or property). In an emergency contact the Sherriff's office by dialing 911 who will then contact the appropriate employees to respond to the incident.

The Morris County Highway Department has adopted the following policy regarding snow removal on County maintained roadways.

- (1) Snow/Ice removal and roadway sanding operations in each Motor Patrol district will be conducted on County roadways generally in accordance with the following Priority ratings:

<u>Route Type</u>	<u>Priority Rating</u>
Paved County Roadways	1
Morris Co. Hospital and emergency runs	1
Major collectors and/or School Bus routes (Gravel roadways)	2
Minor collectors (Gravel roadways)	3
City's contracting out to the county for snow removal	4
Minimum maintenance roadways (for livestock health only)	5

Minimum maintenance roadways, in general, will not be cleared of snow/ice. This is at the discretion of the Highway department Superintendent.

County facilities will be dealt with concurrent to Priority #1 and #2 roads.

Each maintenance district has situations unique to its area and the county reserves the right to modify the priority rating or their sequence of priority ratings to be more efficient in their winter maintenance operations.

It is a general practice that during and after a storm event, most maintenance districts may work concurrently on Priority #1 and #2 roads.

Priority #1 Roads:

These roads will be given the greatest attention. County crews will be allowed to work overtime in attempts to keep these roads open. Snow removal will be performed during the snow event. Salt and sand application, in general, will not be performed until after snow has quit falling.

Priority #2 Roads:

County crews are authorized to work overtime to keep these roads open during 6:00am and 6:00pm. These roads, in general, will be cleared following Priority #1 roadways.

Priority #3 Roads:

During continued storm events every effort will be made on, priority 1 and 2 roads, to maintain them open, prior to proceeding on with priority #3 roads. Consideration will be given to these roads during long-term storm events to prevent large snow accumulations.

Priority #4 Roads:

These roads will not be plowed until all other higher priority roads are cleared and widened and the berms pushed back in preparation for additional storms and drainages opened.

Priority #5 Roads:

These roads, in general, will not be plowed. However, considerations will be given should these roads be used for winter operations associated with livestock. Plowing of these roads shall only occur after all higher priority roads are cleared and widened. These roads will be handled at the discretion of the Highway department Superintendent.

Other comments:

County employees are not authorized to plow non-county roadways.

Any driveways, entrances, mailboxes or other structure adjacent to the roadways may be blocked with snow during the clearing operations and are the responsibility of the adjacent landowners.

In no instance shall adjacent homeowners or landowners push snow from private lands onto the county right-of-way. This is a hazard to the traveling public and is illegal as per Kansas statute No.: 68-545.

Salting and sanding of roadways will only be performed on paved roads and at the discretion of the Highway Department Superintendent.

Any damages to structures adjacent to roadways will be handled on a case-by-case basis and only after all storm operations have been performed and completed.

The Morris County Highway Department reserves the right to adjust all priorities and plans, to accommodate changing storm conditions. Special considerations will be given to large scale drifting snow events.

Snow Emergencies:

A Snow Emergency may be declared with the existence of six (6) inches of snow or more on the ground and/or two (2) feet snow drifts and a continuing rate of snow fall which exceeds one (1) inch per hour and/or sustained winds. Should this declaration be necessary the local Emergency Management department will be notified and in-turn notify local authorities and local news media. When this condition exists any vehicles or obstructions on the county roadways, for longer than 1 hour, may be towed at the owners expense