

TITLE IV: COUNTY ROADS

CHAPTER II.

SNOW REMOVAL

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish Muscatine County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow and ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, specifically defined as November through April, as provided in Sections 309.67 and 668.10 (2), Cod of Iowa (1999). This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, and 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.

SECTION 2. LEVEL OF SERVICE. Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the 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. Except for "emergencies" as determined by the County Engineer's professional judgment on a case by case basis, 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 and as practicable. The County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose. The rental of equipment is not anticipated. On occasion, County personnel may be rendered unavailable due to the requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.

- A. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys curves, and/or intersections.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 may be greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others.
- D. 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 may be greatly reduced or impaired.

Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, and 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 their speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour.

- E. During these conditions no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed warning of impaired sight distances, 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 shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this section of the ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt roads. The County Engineer's professional judgment 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 and/or practicable. During initial snow removal operations, paved roads may only have one lane plowed for a period of time.
- (2) After two-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
- (3) The truck mounted snow plows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 4:00 A.M. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer.
- (4) When required, due to drifting snow, motor graders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.
- (5) It is not the policy of the County to provide a "dry" pavement condition.
- (6) After roads have been plowed as provided in this section, intersections, hills, and curves may, but not necessarily, have placed on them, salt, sand or other abrasive. These intersections, hills and curves may not be resanded, resalted, or have other abrasives replaced on them between snowstorms.

B. Unpaved Roads.

- (1) The initial effort will be to get all routes opened to one-lane traffic as soon as possible and/or practicable after a storm has passed.
- (2) After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
- (3) Motor graders and/or truck plows will not normally be in operation between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. The motor graders and/or truck plows may be called off the road if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer.
- (4) Snow may not be removed from roads designated at Level B or C.

C. 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.

There is no time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequence of clearance, on paved or unpaved roads, shall take place.

SECTION 4. LIMITATION OF SERVICE.

Notwithstanding anything else stated in this ordinance, the policy and level of service provided for in this ordinance shall not include the following, and the following services **shall not be performed**:

- A. Sanding, salting, or placing of other abrasives upon the roadways that are slick, slippery, and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- B. Sand, salting, or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing rain that occurs outside the County's usual working hours.
- C. Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.
- D. Sanding, salting, or placing abrasives upon any unpaved road. If, in the opinion of the County Engineer, 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 material may be applied at these locations as crew and equipment availability allows and only as a last resort. This condition will not, under any circumstances, 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, such as scraping with motor graders.
- E. Removing of sand, salt, or other abrasives.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.

Service or the level or sequence of service may be suspended by the Engineer during "emergency" conditions. An "emergency" condition shall be considered as one where loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred, or where extensive loss of property is imminent. These conditions shall be verified through the 911 dispatcher or Sheriff's Office. The County may respond to all "emergency" conditions, either during or after a snowstorm.

Any person who makes a false report of an "emergency" to an officer, official, or employee of Muscatine County or who causes a false report to be so made commits a county infraction, enforceable in accordance with the provisions of Title I Administration, Chapter V Enforcement Ordinance.

Service or the level or sequence of service 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 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 6. COUNTY ENGINEER.

As used throughout this ordinance, the terms "County Engineer" or "Engineer" mean the Muscatine County Engineer and shall include a designee acting in the Engineer's absence.