

**KITSAP COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**SNOW AND ICE CONTROL
POLICY**

Policy Number: PW 25.1.100 POL
Effective Date: 12/14/09

Approved: RWC
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PW 25.1.100 POL - This policy defines guidelines used to maintain County roads during winter weather. Our primary objective is to provide safe and orderly movement of emergency equipment and vehicle traffic through the County during winter weather events. The application of this policy depends on several factors including weather conditions and availability of road maintenance staff and equipment.

1.0 REFERENCES

- 1.1 [Priority Routes Map](#)
- 1.2 [Kitsap County Code 9.28](#)

2.0 PRIORITIES

- 2.1 A prioritized system of roadway plowing is established and identified on the Priority Routes Map.
- 2.2 When snow accumulates and plowing is needed a prioritized plan is used to assign crews and equipment. These priorities are referenced in 1.1.
 - 2.2.1 **Priority 1 Routes** – Priority 1 routes are the top priority for snow and ice control. Work continues on Priority Route 1 Routes until they are cleared.
 - 2.2.2 **Priority 2 Routes** – After Priority 1 Routes are cleared, work moves to Priority 2 Routes. Work continues on Priority 2 Routes until they are cleared.
 - 2.2.3 **Local access and residential roads** – After Priority 1 and Priority 2 Routes are cleared, work moves to local access and residential roads, as time allows. Local access and residential roads are not usually cleared over weekends or as overtime tasks. The Public Works Director or his designee may choose to clear these roads over weekends or using overtime at their discretion.
- 2.3 When conditions are favorable for ice forming on roadways sand and/or salt brine is applied to the road surface. Initial sanding and/ or brining operations prioritize hills, curves, intersections, bridges, and elevated structures on Priority 1 and Priority 2 Routes. After initial sanding and/or brining operations are completed crews continue to sand following plowing priorities shown in 2.2.

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- 2.4** When a typical snow or ice event occurs Priority 1 routes are handled within the first 0 – 36 hours. Priority 2 routes are handled within the 36 – 72 hour time frame. If another event occurs during the first 72 hours, crews return to the Priority 1 routes schedule.

3.0 EQUIPMENT

- 3.1** Snow and ice equipment are inspected, calibrated, and ready to mount on trucks by November 1st. Crews establish temporary sand piles in strategic locations in the County to increase operational effectiveness during storm events
- 3.2** One-ton 4x4 trucks are used in areas with steep hills or other hazardous conditions.

4.0 ROAD CREWS

- 4.1** Road shop supervisors establish a crew list for day and night operations prior to November 1st. During prolonged snow removal and ice control activities crews work a maximum of twelve continuous hours. The area supervisors split the crews into two shifts. Shift hours are from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M., and from 8 P. M. to 8 A. M.
- 4.2** Road shop supervisors divide their areas into sections, zones, or areas.
- 4.3** Kitsap County partners with incorporated cities to provide the most effective and efficient snow and ice response in “island” areas, annexed areas, and areas of shared responsibilities.

5.0 DRIVEWAYS AND PRIVATE ROADS

- 5.1** Public Works does not remove snow or ice from driveways or private roads, including portions of driveways and private roads in County owned rights-of-way. Snow and ice is removed from emergency agency approaches and/or driveways.
- 5.2** Snow and ice control activities may obstruct driveways and private road approaches. Public Works does not assume responsibility for clearing driveway and private road approaches obstructed with materials from snow and ice operations.

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6.0 SIDEWALKS

6.1 Snow removal on sidewalks adjacent to private property is the responsibility of the property owner or tenants per Kitsap County Code 9.28.

7.0 MAILBOXES

7.1 Mailbox owners assume the risk of damage to mailboxes installed within County maintained rights-of-way, except when the mailbox is damaged by direct contact with snow removal vehicles or plow blades. When damage is caused by direct contact the County repairs or replaces the mailbox with a standard metal mailbox acceptable for delivery of mail by the United States Post office, placed on a wood post.

7.2 Repairs for damage caused by indirect contact is the owner's responsibility. This includes damage caused by the force of snow plowed by snow removal equipment, or from deteriorated support posts.

8.0 LANDSCAPES

8.1 Kitsap County does not assume responsibility for damage to landscaping, irrigation systems, or plants placed within County-owned rights-of-way.

9.0 DEFINITIONS

9.1 The term "cleared" indicates that snow has been removed from the travel lanes. It does not indicate bare pavement. There may be compact snow and ice on roads that are "cleared." When practical snow is also removed from the shoulder area to provide capacity for additional snow and to provide adequate drainage areas for melting snow. Plowed snow may be placed on roadway shoulders, over roadway slopes, into roadway ditches, onto sidewalks adjacent to the road, or into roadway planting areas.