

NOTICE TO BRIDGEWATER RESIDENTS

Snow & Ice Policy: FY07-FY08

SALTING & SANDING

In Bridgewater, salting operations will begin when the road surfaces are determined hazardous by the Highway Superintendent or his designee. During off-business hours, the Police Department may advise the Highway Department of hazardous conditions.

Typical salting operations require 10 trucks to cover the entire town. The process takes about 4 hours. The priority is to cover main roads first, followed by secondary and other through roads. Dead-ends and residential cul-de-sacs are salted last. It could take up to 4 hours for a salter/sander to get to a given street. At times, we may pre-treat some residential roadways and cul-de-sacs prior to the snow event.

Because of environmental concerns and economic issues, the trend in snow and ice control is to reduce the volume of sand that is mixed with salt. In Bridgewater during the coming winter season, we will begin to phase out the use of sand. We will also make a conscientious effort reduce the volume of salt that is used.

We will stay with this policy only as long as salt and de-icing chemicals materials are available. In the event of a shortage, this policy will be revised accordingly to reduce the amount of salt use.

SNOW PLOWING

The Town has 15 vehicles equipped with plows that are assigned to individual snow plow routes. An additional 45 private contractors are needed to supplement our work force for a total of 60 plow vehicles. However, a major storm could result in some becoming impassable because we do not have enough large trucks and equipment to keep up with rapidly accumulating snowfall.

Snow plowing will begin after salting operations are completed and the depth of snow reaches approximately three inches. The priority for plowing is to begin with main and through roads followed by residential sub-divisions. During a storm, it may be necessary to plow each street several times. During major blizzards, main and through roads will be kept open as a priority. Residential subdivisions will then be addressed when the main roads are plowed. In the event of an emergency, the Highway Department will respond immediately with all available vehicles to provide access for the Police and Fire Departments, regardless of the type of roadway or its priority.

Each snowfall must be pushed off the road as far as possible to provide sufficient room on the road shoulder for successive storms. This prevents the traveled way from becoming too narrow and unsafe. Also, the snow must be pushed back far enough so that the catch basins and drains are open. This will prevent flooding when the snow melts.

MAILBOXES AND OTHER OBJECTS IN THE ROAD LAYOUT

During snowplow operations, some mailboxes, fences and other objects in the road layout are damaged. Most of the damage is caused by the weight of the snow coming off the plow and hitting the objects. It is uncommon for a plow to physically strike an object, but it does happen occasionally.

The Highway Department is not responsible for any damage to objects located in the road layout that occurs during snow removal operations.

SIDEWALKS

Following snowplow operations on our streets, sidewalk plowing will begin. The Town has two sidewalk plow routes. It takes about six hours to plow the sidewalks on all main and secondary through roads. Priority will be given to sidewalks in the downtown commercial area and within areas where children walk to school. During major storms, outlying sidewalks may not be plowed. Sidewalks in residential sub-divisions will not be plowed at all, regardless of the amount of snowfall.

RUBBISH BARRELS

Residents are reminded not to place rubbish barrels or bags in the roadway or sidewalk until after snowplowing operations are completed.

The Highway Department is not responsible for damage or cleanup of rubbish left in the road or sidewalk during plow operations.

VEHICLES PARKED IN THE STREET

Vehicles that are parked in the street and are interfering with snow removal operations may be towed. Towing will be at the vehicle owner's expense.