

# TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

ANDREW BAGAS  
SUPERINTENDENT



151 HIGH STREET  
BRIDGEWATER, MA 02324  
508-697-0931 508-697-0933 FAX

### SNOW AND ICE POLICY 2008-2009

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Highway Department work force is now staffed by ten (11) fewer employees than in the recent past. The following policy is based on our ability to deliver services to the residents of Bridgewater with available resources.

#### **SALTING**

In Bridgewater, salting operations will usually begin when the Highway Superintendent or his designee determines that the road surfaces will soon become hazardous. During off-business hours, the Superintendent or his designee may monitor weather conditions as necessitated by the weather forecast.

The priority for salting is to cover main roads first, followed by secondary and other through roads. Dead-ends and residential cul-de-sacs are less of a priority.

At times, we may pre-treat roadways prior to the snow event. The early application of de-icing chemicals is critical for melting snow and for preventing the snow from bonding to the road surface. Less material is needed to melt snow from the "bottom up" rather than from the "top down". Salt will be supplemented as necessary with calcium chloride or magnesium chloride to improve its snow melting effectiveness.

#### **SNOW PLOWING**

The Highway Department has only 8 plow vehicles operated by our employees. Town employees from other departments (if they are available) may also drive some of our other snowplow vehicles. An additional 45 private contractors are hired to supplement our work force. There are over 300 streets in Bridgewater with a total of 130 miles.

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 thru roads followed by minor roads and 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. A major storm could result in some roads becoming temporarily impassable. Residential subdivisions will be addressed after 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 heavy 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 Town of Bridgewater 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 as soon as we have employees available. Priority will be given to sidewalks in the downtown commercial area and within areas where children walk to school. Depending on the severity and duration of a given storm, outlying sidewalks may not be plowed. Sidewalks in residential sub-divisions will not be plowed at all, regardless of the amount of snowfall.

Residents should be aware that the plowing of sidewalks might result in snow being pushed back into driveway aprons after the residents have cleared the snow from their driveways.

## **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.

Andrew Bagas  
Highway Superintendent  
November 20, 2008