



# Town of Wenham

## Department of Public Works

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Richard Souza | Director  
138 Main Street, Wenham, Massachusetts 01984  
ph: 978-468-5520 ext.6 | rsouza@wenhamma.gov

### **SNOW PLOWING POLICIES**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Town of Wenham believes it is in the best interest of the residents for the town to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on town streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The town will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The Highway Department will use town employees, equipment, and/or private contractors to provide this service. The safety of the traveling public and the plow operators are a paramount concern in establishing this policy.

#### **2. When will town start snow or ice control operations?**

The Highway Director will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. Snow accumulation of 3 inches or more;
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- D. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently snow plowing operations will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than 3 inches unless the police on duty deem the roads unsafe.

The public is reminded to drive at a speed that is reasonable and prudent for conditions, to be aware of the actual and potential hazards on the town roads and to use care in operating their vehicle.

3. **Priorities and schedule for which streets will be plowed**

The Highway Department has classified town streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. The level of service is dependent on the roadways' classification. Recommended levels of service are shown in Phases (see attached) and shall be interpreted as guidelines for maintenance operations. It is expected that management will continue to exercise judgment in situations where maintenance requirements differ from guidelines. It is expected that there would be several severe storms during a typical winter when the recommended Levels of Service could not be attained before crews are withdrawn. Once the Level of Service has been reached and maintained, normal schedules will be resumed.

4. **Use of sand, salt and other chemicals**

The Highway Department will use sand, salt, and ice ban when there is hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The town uses ice ban instead of calcium chloride as it is environmentally friendly.

5. **Sidewalks**

The Highway Department will maintain the sidewalks in the town. As there are a limited number of personnel available, the town will only maintain these sidewalks after the streets, Fire Station, Police Station, school, library and town office parking areas have been plowed. Sidewalks will be prioritized by usage and the Buker School area.

6. **Personal Properties**

Mailboxes and fences damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mailboxes and fences that were properly located and installed, and which were damaged by actual contact with town equipment will be repaired at the town's expense. The mailbox owner is responsible for repair or replacement of the mailbox if the mailbox was damaged by the pressure of the plowed snow and there was no physical contact with the plow equipment. Posts that are in poor condition or are rotted are the responsibility of the owner.

As snow is plowed from roadways, windrows will be created at the end of driveways and are the property owner's responsibility to clear. Residents are also reminded that it is unlawful for them to plow, shovel or blow snow from driveways and walkways onto or across town roads and sidewalks.