



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

210 WEST ALDER  
RITZVILLE, WASHINGTON 99169  
(509) 659-3276

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### Snow Plowing Notice

Winter weather is upon us and the Adams County Public Works Department would like to remind the public of its policy for snow plowing and pulling out private vehicles.

- 1) Adams County Public Works plows snow on nearly 1,800 miles of roads from three primary maintenance facilities. Priority guidelines for plowing / sanding roads is as follows:
  - i) Major Collectors – Paved
  - ii) Minor Collectors – Paved
  - iii) Major Collectors – Gravel
  - iv) Minor Collectors – Gravel
  - v) Local Access and the balance of the system
  - b) School bus routes on the above-mentioned classifications will receive first priority status when school is in session and mail routes will be secondary. Deviations to this priority guideline may occur to allow the best utilization of available personnel and equipment.
- 2) Crews will start plowing as the storm event subsides. Adams County does not plow roads during a winter storm event except during normal working hours or in emergency situations. An emergency situation is defined as only situations where fire, police, emergency medical services have call upon us to respond quickly to prevent harm to or loss of human life or property. Damages to private property as a result of emergency opening of private lanes will be the sole responsibility of the landowner / leasee.
- 3) Paved roads will not be plowed until there is an accumulation of 1" or more of snow and gravel surfaced roads will not be plowed until there is more than 3" of snow. (See No. 2)
- 4) During periods of drifting snow, roads will be patrolled and plowing will take place at the discretion of the road maintenance officials. If plowed roads of higher priority have drifted shut the crews will start over on the above-mentioned classifications stated in #1 above.
- 5) Steep grades will be sanded at the discretion of the road maintenance officials.
- 6) County equipment is not to be used to extract stuck private vehicles except in emergency situations. An emergency situation is described as an individual needing immediate medical attention or an individual being exposed to severe weather without assistance, etc. The only exception is when the private vehicle is blocking the roadway, preventing the snow equipment from proceeding.

- 7) In accordance with the Laws of the State of Washington, private lanes will not be plowed except for emergency situations. An exception to this is to retrieve County equipment temporarily parked at a private residence.
- 8) Removal of snow berms left in front of driveways, mailboxes and etc. are the responsibility of the property owner / resident.
- 9) The use of liquid de-icing agents and sanding on County Roads will be at the discretion of the road maintenance officials, these applications may vary depending on temperature, wind conditions and duration of the weather event.
- 10) Residents are reminded that State Law prohibits placing snow or ice on any public road in a manner that impedes vehicle or pedestrian traffic or makes it unsafe.
- 11) Adams County's primary objective is to keep County Public roadways safe for travel. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call Adams County Department of Public Works at (509) 659-3276.

*Todd O'Brien*  
Public Works Director



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### SNOW REMOVAL MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

To qualify for snow removal for medical reasons, the resident must file an application on forms provided by the Adams County Department of Public Works while meeting the following requirements:

1. The resident must reside in the dwelling for which participation in the program is being requested.
2. The resident must be medically impaired, temporarily or permanently disabled, and/or have critical medical obligations to qualify. All applicants must present a doctor's certificate stating the disability/condition along with the application. The doctor's certificate will be kept on file.
3. The resident must certify that they intend to remain in the residence from December 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> and will not voluntarily be absent from the residence for prolonged periods without notifying the Department of their absence.
4. The residence must be absent of an able-bodied person (above the age of 15) capable of the snow removal requested.
5. The applicant must agree to release Adams County and its employees from any and all damages and liability arising out of snow removal that may occur during the performance of the work requested.

Falsification of any information contained in the application will result in immediate disqualification and the applicant will be required to reimburse Adams County for all costs incurred.

#### DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM

The requested County roads will be plowed according to the Snow Plowing policy. There are no guaranteed times when snow removal service will be performed and will be at the discretion of the Department.

Snow plowing on the private portions of the roads requested will take place after the County has completed priorities #1 and #2 within the Snow Plowing Policy and only after at least 3" of snow has accumulated, if during the normal workweek, and at least 5" if accumulated on the weekends or holidays, as measured by the Department.

Residents with extremely urgent conditions such as medical obligations may contact the Department for emergency arrangements.

# APPLICATION TO CLEAR SNOW FROM ROADWAYS

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Request that the Adams County Department of Public Works clear snow from the below mentioned roads during the winter of: \_\_\_\_\_

The reason for my application is: \_\_\_Impairment \_\_\_Disability \_\_\_ Medical Condition

**State the form of Impairment/Disability/Condition and Provide a Doctor's Certificate:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Adams County Department of Public Works will provide snow removal service on the County Roads as stated within the County Snow Plow Policy and on the private portions of the roads requested only after at least 3" of snow has accumulated, if during the normal workweek and at least 5" of accumulation if on the weekend or holiday, as measured by the Department.

I understand that my private portion of the road will be plowed after crews have cleared county roadways (Priority #1 and #2) and there are no guaranteed times when snow removal service will be performed. I hereby release and agree to hold Adams County and its employees harmless for any liability property damage or personal injury that might occur as the result of snow removal whether said damage is caused by an act of negligence or otherwise. This also includes my mailbox. (Heavy snow is the main cause of damage to a mailbox)

RESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MY PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS \_\_\_\_\_ miles from the intersection of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(my road)

AND \_\_\_\_\_

(closest intersection and/or cross roads)

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

# AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**II. OTHER PERSONS LIVING IN THE HOME**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being duly sworn, state:

- 1. I reside in the dwelling listed above.
- 2. I am medically impaired, or temporarily or permanently disabled.
- 3. No person listed in Section II is capable of snow removal on the portions of private road listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date