



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

100-02 **Snow Plowing Policy**
Effective Date: **2-11-19**
Supersedes:
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Approved by: **Todd O'Brien**

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APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Adams County Department of Public Works Snow Plow Policy is hereby approved for implementation and supersedes all previous editions.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2019



Todd O'Brien
Public Works Director

1.0 Purpose

To define responsibility and direct procedures for snow and ice operations and to inform the public of the policy for snow plowing and pulling out private vehicles.

2.0 Organizations Affected

Adams County Department of Public Works

3.0 References

RCW 36.82.70

4.0 Policy

- 4.1 It is the policy of Adams County to prioritize snow and ice control efforts to assure vital access is maintained throughout the county. Adams County's primary objective is to keep County Public roadways safe for travel. Questions may be directed to the Adams County Department of Public Works at (509) 659-3276.

5.0 Procedure

- 5.1 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
- a) 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.
- 5.2 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 / lease per
- 5.3 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)

- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Steep grades will be sanded at the discretion of the road maintenance officials.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 In accordance with the Laws of the State of Washington, private lanes will not be plowed except for emergency situations. County road funds can only be used on county roads per 36.82.070. An exception to this is to retrieve County equipment temporarily parked at a private residence.
- 5.8 Removal of snow berms left in front of driveways, mailboxes and etc. are the responsibility of the property owner / resident.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.