

LESauK TOWNSHIP, STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

SNOW & ICE CONTROL POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Town of LeSauk believes that it is in the best interests of the residents of the Township to assume basic responsibility for control of snow & ice on Township Roads. Reasonable ice & snow control is necessary for routine travel & emergency services. The Township will provide such control in a safe & cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel & environmental concerns. The Township will use private contractors to provide this service as deemed necessary to provide a satisfactory level of service.

Plowing will be done at the discretion of the Township Board or their authorized representative when fewer than 2 inches of snow falls due to limited funds for snow & ice control operations.

The Township reserves the flexibility to change their procedures depending upon the type of snow, wind, & the time of day the snow falls.

2. DISPATCHING OF SNOWPLOWS:

The Township will usually not dispatch the snowplows until after a snowfall has stopped, or in the case of substantial, extended snowfall, the snow has reached an accumulation of four (4) inches.

Snow & ice control operations are expensive & involve the use of limited personnel, equipment & budget. Consequently, snowplowing operations will not be generally conducted for a snowfall of less than two (2) inches unless conditions dictate otherwise. The Township will apply snow & ice control measures when snow exceeds two (2) inches in depth and/or drifting or icy conditions are likely to cause problems for travel.

Snow & ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of employees or equipment. Factors that may delay snow & ice control operations include, but are not limited to, severe cold and/or wind-chill conditions, severe drifting, & limited or restricted visibility.

In all cases, road & weather conditions will dictate the start of snow & ice control operations.

If snow and/or ice stop falling during regular working hours, the equipment may be dispatched at that time. If snowfall and/or ice stop during the night or early morning hours, the equipment generally will be dispatched between 2 AM & 4 AM. Weekend operations will be similar to the weekday operations.

The Township board or their designated representative will decide when to begin snow and/or ice control operations. **The criteria for that decision are:**

- Snow accumulations of 2 inches or more.
- Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel.
- Icy conditions which seriously affect travel.
- Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of roads.
- Current weather forecast.

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3. OPERATIONS:

Generally, the cleaning of roads will consist of three (3) phases:

1. Making the road passable: &
2. Widening & sanding; &
3. Cleaning up.

Depending upon the situation, more than one phase maybe accomplished at one time.

1. Make the Road Passable. Clean one lane in each direction. Generally, plow & wing are used.
2. Widen the Lanes to Edge of Shoulders. Sanding is done usually at problem locations on paved roads, including intersections, curves, hills & bridges.
3. Cleaning Up. All areas that did not get completely covered or that have drifted back in since originally plowed.

Safe operation of the equipment requires a limitation of operation of large equipment in reverse at intersections. A safe procedure of turning right & continuing forward movement to connect loops may have the effect of plowing some of the less traveled routes that are adjacent to more heavily traveled routes. In times of extreme snowfall, some roads may not be immediately cleared of snow. It is desirable for all roads to be made passable within eight (8) hours of beginning operations, however, in case of lighter snowfalls; it is desirable that roads are passable before the school buses begin running.

Generally, the following times will apply for all operations to be completed after the snow stops falling:

- 1 – 6 inches of snow – 24 hours after snow stops.
- 6 inches of snow or greater – 48 hours after snow stops.

4. PERSONAL PROPERTIES

1. Mailboxes, fences, hedges, trees & other personal property damaged during snow and/or ice control operations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only items actually damaged by actual physical contact with the Contractor's equipment will be considered. Only those mailboxes that were **PROPERLY LOCATED & INSTALLED ON A MN/DOT APPROVED MAILBOX SUPPORT & DAMAGED BY ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE CONTRACTOR'S EQUIPMENT** will be considered for repair or replacement at contractor's expense.
2. Grass damage to shoulder is considered incidental to snow removal & the Township shall not be responsible for any such damage.
3. Township residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow & ice from driveways onto or across public roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for the vehicles & snowplows. Accidents & damage caused by snow piles placed in or near the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. The property owner may also be responsible for the cost of removing the snow & ice. Piles of snow also increase the chances of snow drifting onto the roadway.
4. Township residents are reminded to remove parked vehicles from Township roads & streets until after snowplowing operations are complete. The Township reserves the right to remove any vehicle and or other personal property which inhibits the plowing procedure at the owner's expense.
5. The Contractor (s) will not attempt to remove stuck or disabled vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediments.

5. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

The Township will make reasonable emergency plowing effort on any route, public or private, if so ordered by the Stearns County Sheriff's Department. This will include emergencies for loss of life, dwellings or other personal property & lack of food, heating fuel or medication. The Sheriff's Department will contact the Township on a priority basis as they determine is necessary.

The Sheriff's Department will coordinate operations with the ambulance & fire units. **All emergencies should be called into the Sheriff's Department on the 911 phone line.**

6. PRIORITIES & SCHEDULE FOR WHICH ROADS WILL BE PLOWED

The Township has classified Township roads & streets based upon road function, traffic volume & importance to the welfare of the community as per map displayed at the Township Hall.

Those roads classified as "Snow Plow Routes" will be plowed first. These are higher volume roads, which connect major sections of the Township & provide access for emergency fire, police & medical services. Second priority roads are open for travel & ideally, roads will be clear for the operation of vehicles & school buses in the morning. Snow Plow Routes are the following roads in LeSauk Township: 30th Avenue No/Townline Road, 40th Street and Pinecone Road. Housing developments as determined by ASTECH Inc.

7. USE OF SALT & SAND

The Township will use salt & sand when there is hazardous ice or other slippery conditions, in accordance with Minnesota State Laws.

8. MANAGING COMPLAINTS & REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

Questions or concerns regarding snow and/or ice control operations, or conditions should be directed to the Township Board. Persons should contact one of the Township Officers.

9. EXCESS SNOW REMOVAL

The Township Board or their designated representative will determine when & if excess snow will be removed from an area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no further room for snow storage off the shoulder of the road & in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition.

Such snow removal operations, when conducted, will not commence until other snowplowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending upon weather conditions, personnel, equipment availability & budget availability. The snow will be removed to a snow storage area located so as to minimize environmental problems.

This SNOW & ICE CONTROL POLICY was adopted by the LeSauk Township Board

On the 25th day of February 2020

By: Daniel A. Heun Chairman

Marlyce K. Plante Clerk

