



# Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Public Works

Approved: 11.1.2023

## *Public Works Highway Department Snow and Ice Removal Policy*

The Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department is responsible for the removal of snow and ice from the Fond du Lac maintained roads. Snow and ice removal performance can be affected by a variety of factors such as intensity and duration of the storm event, temperature, wind and moisture content of the snow. The department's snow removal priorities reflect a commitment to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

### **1. Purpose**

The following policy has been created to establish expectations and improve citizen awareness of snow and ice removal procedures. Further, the policy has been created to clarify the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Departments level of service for snow and ice removal. The policy describes the minimum service expected to be provided by the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department. The Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department reserves the right to provide services under this policy that exceed the minimum standards set forth herein.

### **2. Goal**

The general goal of the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department is to make the Fond du Lac maintained roads navigable within a reasonable amount of time after a snow and/or ice event has occurred.

### **3. Level of Service**

#### **A) General**

Removal of snow and ice and placing of sand, salt. Chemicals, or other abrasive material on the Fond du Lac maintained roadway system is primary for the safety of the traveling public. Each storm event has individual characteristics that must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves, intersections, and/or locations of particular topographical or traffic features.

#### **B) Removal/ Abrasive Placement Capacity**

The Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department's existing snow removal equipment will be used to implement this policy. The Fond du Lac Public Works



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Highway Department does not ensure a completely bare road and will not normally deice entire sections of the roadway. The priority is deicing of intersections, hills, and curves.

## C) Removal Operations

The entire width of the portion of the roadway improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right-of-way.

Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portions of the roadway, which may greatly reduce or impair a motorists' sight distance to both the left and right. The snow removed from intersections may be piled in their corners and may result in the snow piles of unequal height. The line of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired.

During the period from **October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to April 30<sup>th</sup>** of the following year, no person shall park any motor vehicle on the streets during a winter weather event from the hours of 11:00pm to 8:00am. This will be in effect when the snow totals are two (2) inches and above or if we are getting freezing rain. It shall be the duty of the Fond du Lac Police Department to have any motor vehicle that is parked on the roadway to be removed at the owner's expense.

Property owners shall not push snow from their driveway, or property in general, onto the right-of-way, including the roadways, shoulders, or adjacent sidewalk or trail. Property owners acting in violation of this policy may be cited. ***Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department shall not be responsible for snow pushed by others or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others.***

## D) Motor Vehicle Operations

In general, motorists should adjust their driving in a manner that is appropriate for the existing road conditions. Motorists shall operate their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially with respect to the roadway surface and the motorist's visibility, which may be reduced or impaired.



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Driving up to or at the statutory or posted speed limit may not be advisable, depending on weather conditions. The public is requested not to crowd the plow. People who drive during the winter season will encounter snow and ice removal equipment. Flashing lights will generally be the first indication of the presence of snow removal equipment. Citizens are cautioned to reduce speed, pass with care, and maintain a safe distance when encountering snow removal equipment. **NEVER PASS ON THE RIGHT.**

## 4. Dispatching of Snow Removal Equipment

### A) General

The decision to mobilize snow removal equipment will be made by the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Manager, or an authorized Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department representative based upon the following guidelines:

- The Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department will generally not dispatch snow removal equipment until after a snowfall has stopped. During extended periods of snowfall or icy conditions, exceptions are made.
- The Fond du Lac Public Works highway Department will apply snow control measures when snow accumulation exceeds two (2) inches in depth or seriously impeded traffic.
- Snow accumulations of less than two (2) inches may not be plowed.
- Snow removal equipment will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility.
- Snow removal equipment will not be dispatched at night except for emergency calls, such as assisting fire departments, or ambulance crews. Icing bridges or drifting snow are expected winter travel conditions and are generally not adequate justification to dispatch snow removal crews.

### B) Hours of Operation

The Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department presently operates with enough personnel to operate one shift daily. In a snow event, the necessary Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department personnel will be mobilized by the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department Manager or authorized Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department representative. Snow removal crews will normally operate only during daylight hours, or shortly before daylight, Monday through Friday (approximately 5:00 AM through 5:00 PM), and if possible may be confined to normal work hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.



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On Saturdays, and Sundays, or holidays, roadways may receive a reduced level of service. The normal level of service will be implemented if conditions warrant.

Snow removal operators shifts are generally limited to a maximum of twelve (12) hours per day for safety reasons. Snow removal equipment will operate from 5:00 PM to 5:00 AM only in emergency cases as determined under this policy.

## Snow removal operations will be halted when:

- Service levels are reached;
- Coverage time has elapsed;
- Conditions are too hazardous;
- Reasonable progress cannot be made; or
- MnDOT closes roadways in Carlton and St. Louis County under their jurisdiction or when a **“NO TRAVEL”** advisory is issued.

## 5. Snow Removal Operations

### A) General

Typically, snow removal operations will consist of the following (1) making roads passable; (2) widening the lanes and applying deicing materials; and (3) cleaning up. Depending on the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at a time.

1. Make the road passable – Clean one lane in each direction.
2. Widen the lanes and apply deicing materials – deicing is done at problem locations on paved roads including intersections, curves, hills, and bridges. Appropriate deicing activities will be used, based on anticipated temperatures and accepted deicing practices. At pavement temperatures below 20 degrees, salt used will be limited, as it becomes ineffective at lower temperatures.
3. Clean up – remove ice and slush off roadway, clean up areas that snow has drifted back in, and widen out intersections.
4. As snow is plowed from roadways, operators will try to leave as little snow across driveways. The removal of this windrow is a courtesy of the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department, otherwise the property owner's responsibility.



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## B) Road Priorities

- 1) The Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department to the best of its ability will try to maintain all the Fond du Lac maintained roadways during the course of a snow event.
- 2) Gravel roads and some lower volume pavements may not be plowed during all snow events. Snow removal on gravel roads will be based on amount and type of snow.

## 6. Miscellaneous

### A) Personal Property

Mailboxes and other personal property damaged by Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department snow or ice removal activities will be evaluated case by case. Damage resulting from snow debris from the plow is not the responsibility of the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department. Only those personal property items that were properly located and installed that were damaged by actual contact with snow removal equipment will be repaired at the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Departments expense.

- I) Mailboxes – Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department will not be responsible for mailboxes damaged as a result of snow removal unless actual contact is made by snow removal equipment. Mailboxes should be constructed sturdy enough to withstand snow rolling off a plow or wing. Therefore, damage to mailboxes resulting from the weight of the snow is the responsibility of the homeowner. Residents should mark mailboxes in a drift prone area to help snow removal operators avoid them. Claims for damage are to be submitted to the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department within 48 hours of a storm event for consideration for repair. Patrons of rural mail routes are responsible for maintaining their mailboxes and must keep the approach to the mailbox clear by promptly removing snow, ect.
- II) Obstructions – obstructions in the right-of-way such as, but not limited to Basketball Hoops, Trash Cans, Furniture or Vehicles that might cause snow drifting shall be removed by the owners. Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department will not be liable for damage to stalled or stranded vehicles on the traveled portion of the roadway or other obstructions that



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interfere with snow or ice removal. The owners of stalled or stranded vehicles should immediately notify the Carlton County Sheriff's or the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. Owners shall remove stalled or stranded vehicles as soon as possible.

## B) Residential Snow Removal

Residents are reminded that IT IS UNLAWFUL to plow snow 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 vehicles and snow removal equipment. Vehicular crashes and damage that are caused by piles of snow placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

### **Snowplow Safety Tips**

- Yield to snowplows. They travel slower than posted speed limits
- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room to do their jobs.
- Never drive in a snow cloud.
- SLOW DOWN! Never use cruise control on wet or icy roads
- STAY ALERT. A snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car. In a crash, occupants of a car are much more likely to be seriously injured.
- Be patient. Follow at a safe distance. Allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snowplow.

### **Summary:**

This policy was developed to provide general guidelines for both Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department and the traveling public. This policy intends to cover the majority of situations normally encountered during winter storm events. The decision to mobilize snow or ice removal equipment is a judgement call based on particular weather conditions, past experience, and available resources at the time. therefore, responses to snow and ice conditions may not strictly adhere to this general policy.

Questions or concerns regarding snow or ice removal should be directed to the Fond du Lac Public Works Highway Department Manager at (218) 878-7576 during regular business hours