

**TITLE:** An ordinance establishing the policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of Plymouth County's secondary roads during the winter months.

Be It Enacted by the Board of Supervisor's of Plymouth County, Iowa:

**SECTION 1.** Purpose The purpose of this ordinance is to establish Plymouth County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, specifically defined as November through April, as provided in Section 668.10(2) (1995), Code of Iowa, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 309.67, Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, and as contained in Plymouth County's secondary road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

**SECTION 2.** Level of Service Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of Plymouth County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel may have upon it snow and ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves, and/or intersections. The County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose. On occasion County personnel may be rendered unavailable due to the requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. Except for "Emergencies" as determined by the County Engineer's professional judgment, or his/her designee acting in his/her absence, on a case by case basis, all clearance of snow and ice, sanding, salting, and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service. The entire width of that portion of the road 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 portion to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in its corners in piles of unequal height. The line of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorist approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulder by others. Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, and reduced or impaired visibility, and are advised to reduce their speed at least 25 miles per hour below that legally permitted or advised under normal conditions. In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution shall be exercised by the motorist, and their speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour.

During these conditions no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed that warn of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

**SECTION 3. Sequence of Service** In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the County's secondary road system during the winter months, the County Engineer or his/her designated representative shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this Section of this Ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt road. The County Engineer's professional judgment or his/her designee's, shall prevail, unless it is clearly erroneous.

A. Paved Routes

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to two-lane traffic as soon as possible and or practicable. During initial snow removal operations, paved roads may only have one lane plowed for a period of time.
2. After two-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. The truck mounted snow plows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 PM - 4:30 AM. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and/or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the engineer or his/her delegated representative.
4. When required, due to drifting snow, motor graders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.
5. It is not the policy of the County to provide a "dry" pavement condition.
6. After roads have been plowed, as provided in this section; intersections, hills, and curves may, but not necessarily, have placed on them, salt, sand, or other abrasives. These intersections, hills, and curves may not be resanded, resalted, or have other abrasives replaced on them between snowstorms.

B. Unpaved Roads

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes opened to one-lane traffic as soon as possible and/or practicable after a storm has passed.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. Motor graders and/or truck plows will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 PM - 6:00 AM. The motor graders may be called off the road if snow and blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer or his/her delegated representative. Gravel roads may not be plowed if the wind is causing continual drifting.

4. Snow may not be removed from dirt roads.
5. Excessive snow accumulation from snowstorms and blizzards may require that snow removal operations be limited to those roads which have residences located along them. It may be necessary to provide access to some residences from one direction only, and roads with no residences may not be opened.

C. Private Drives

The County will not clear snow from private drives except in an "Emergency" condition as defined in Section 5. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private drives. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders.

D. Mailbox Replacement

The County will assume no liability for mailboxes and fences damaged because of snow removal unless such action can be determined to be malicious. The County will not replace mailboxes damaged or knocked down by the force of snow thrown from the plow.

There is no time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequence of clearance, on paved or unpaved roads, shall take place.

**SECTION 4. Limitation of Service:** Notwithstanding anything else stated in this ordinance, the policy and level of service provided for in this ordinance shall not include the following, and the following services shall not be performed.

- A. Sanding, salting, or placing of other abrasives upon the roadway that are slick, slippery, and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- B. Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing precipitation that occurs outside the County's usual working hours.
- C. Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.
- D. Sanding, salting, or placing abrasives upon any road, except for paved roads. If in the opinion of the County Engineer, or his/her designee, an "Emergency" exists and ice has built up on hills and intersections on the gravel system that slope down to another road so as to become dangerous, abrasive material may be applied at these locations as crew and equipment availability allows and only as a last resort. This condition will not, under any circumstances, take a higher priority than placing of abrasive material on the paved road system and will only be done after the paved roads are cleared of ice and snow. Abrasive material will also only be placed after other mechanical means have been tried and failed, such as scraping with motor graders.
- E. Removing of sand, salt, or other abrasives.

**SECTION 5. Emergency Conditions**

- A. Service or the level or sequence of service may be suspended during "Emergency" conditions. An "Emergency" condition shall be considered as one where a loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred, or where extensive loss of property is imminent. These conditions should be verified through the Civil Defense or Communication Center. The County may respond to all "Emergency" conditions, either during or after a snowstorm. Any person who makes a false report of an "Emergency" to an officer, official, or employee of Plymouth County or who causes a false report to be so made shall upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days in the County jail.
- B. Service or the level or sequence of service shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State disaster plan, or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the County disaster plan. If such occurs the County personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors.

**SECTION 6. Repealer** All ordinances, and resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 7. Severability Clause** If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 8. When Effective** This ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Passed and approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of Jan., 1997

Plymouth County Board of Superisors

*David Wendell Hemmon*  
Chairman

ATTEST:

*K. Kae Meyer*  
K. Kae Meyer, Plymouth County Auditor