

Town of Warren Road Department

Winter Road Maintenance Policy

The Warren Road Department's Winter Maintenance Policy is based on the goal of obtaining safe highway travel surfaces during winter months. It is our goal to achieve this at the earliest practical time and in the most cost-efficient manner during and after a storm event. Providing bare dry travel surfaces during a winter storm event is not practical and therefore not expected.

There are many variables affecting winter maintenance operations such as type of precipitation, air and pavement temperature, traffic volume, wind, time of day, and even the day of the week. Type and volume of traffic and road gradient are the primary factors in determining the order of winter maintenance service. Therefore, during periods of time when school is in session, top priority is given to clearing roads utilized by the school buses.

Emergency service buildings shall receive necessary maintenance to provide for emergency personnel to arrive and for vehicles to depart and return safely. As necessary, snow and ice control equipment shall be redirected by the Road Foreman from assigned routes to assist emergency response vehicles in reaching the destination. Roads heavily used by commuters and hills are next in priority.

Each winter storm event is unique. It is impractical to develop specific rules on winter maintenance operations. Therefore, the judgment of the Road Foreman often governs the quantities and type of applications used to control snow and ice. Public safety is always our top priority.

The following are general guidelines for the winter maintenance by the Warren Road Department.

Highway Department Call Outs:

Road Department's regular working hours are 6 AM-2:30 PM., Monday through Friday. All Road Department employees are standby 24 hours per day 7 days per week from October 15th through May 1. In the event of a winter storm that occurs during evening or weekend hours, the Road Foreman will make the decision to mobilized in consultation with whoever else in the Road Department is on call and will decide if all should be called into work.

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Snow Plowing:

The Town of Warren begins plowing when the snow has accumulated 2-3 inches. After roads are clear, sanding and salting begin.

Plow Routes:

Each plow route and takes 3 to 4 hours to complete. This means if plowing started at 1" an hour there would be 4 inches of snow on the road by the time the vehicle finishes the route 3-4 hours later. Depending on the type of snow storm, if it is snow continuously there could be a potential of more accumulation on the road. Plowing routes can change depending on the winter storm velocity. There shall be no riders in the Town of Warren Winter Maintenance Vehicles other than the operator of the vehicles and authorized town officials. All Winter Maintenance Vehicles shall be pulled to the side of the road when the operator is using a cell phone.

Freezing Rain Storms

It is important to note that salt and sand are less effective if applied before the rain stops. Frozen precipitation, including sleet and the building-up of ice caused by freezing rain is a special situation, and not subject to the procedures indicated above. For example, when a changeover from snow to sleet to freezing rains is predicted or anticipated, snow and/or sleet may be left on the pavement to capture the freezing rain.

Clean Roads

The Town of Warren does not have a clean road policy; therefore, it is possible that not all roads will be kept completely clear of snow, and therefore caution is advised for winter driving. Salt will be used sparingly, the dirt roads will be sanded, but as long as there is ice under the sand, instant stops are impossible.

Damage

The Town of Warren does not replace damaged mailboxes. Please see Mail box Policy at end. The Town of Warren also does not cover damage to vehicles as a result of road conditions. The Warren Highway Department makes every effort to keep the roads free from debris and in good condition but drivers are responsible for driving at reasonable safe speeds to manage the road conditions and avoid potential hazards.

Parking

Parking is not allowed along roadsides or in public areas from November 1st to April 30th from 1:00AM to 8:00AM (See Warren Parking Ordinance currently in effect). The Town reserves the right to tow parked vehicles at the owner's expense. The Town is not liable for damages incurred to vehicles parked in the Town's right-of-way (V.S.A) 23 section 1742.

Trash Placement

Trash and trash receptacles should not be placed in the Town's right-of-way. The Town will not be responsible for damage to trash receptacles or trash cleanup as a result of its obstructing snow removal.

Salt Applications

Salt is used to reduce adherence of snow to pavement thereby improving the ability of snowplows to remove it from the road surface. It is the position of the Town of Warren Highway Department that salt combined with snowplowing is the safest, most efficient de-icing method available. It is the policy of the Department to use only sufficient salt to restore safe travel conditions after a storm. It will be applied to pave roads with a minimum amount of sand applied as necessary. Salt is not effective when the road temperatures are below 10 degrees.

Sand Applications

Sand is utilized to obtain the goal of safe travel surface on gravel roads following a storm. Generally, sand is applied after the conclusion of plowing operations. Sand will also be applied to pave surfaces, and as with salt. It will be used conservatively so that only an amount sufficient to restore safe travel conditions after a storm is used. Some particles may be as large as $\frac{3}{4}$ " in size and may cause windshield or other type of damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for any vehicles damage such as replacement windshields, alleged to be caused by application of salt and sand to road surfaces.

Generally

Judgement based on experience is essential in conducting and timing remedial work to overcome winter hazards. To this end, the Town's Road Foreman enforces this policy and is given wide-ranging latitude for dealing with winter weather situations as they are occurring.

Mailboxes

Despite this care and consideration, some mailboxes may be damaged or destroyed during the snow removal season. In the vast majority of cases, it is the weight of the snow coming off the plow or wing blade that damages a mailbox, especially when oncoming traffic makes it impossible for the plow operator to swerve around the support. It is the Town's policy to replace or repair a mailbox and support that was in good condition and meet postal regulations if at fault from swerving. This does not include damage caused by the snow coming off of the plow or wing blade. (See Warren rural mailbox placement specifications below).

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The replacement of a mailbox or support does not take priority over snow plowing, sanding, salting and other high priority winter maintenance operations and a postal customer may have to pick up mail at the Post Office until the mailbox is back in place.

The Town shall have no responsibility for clearing away snow from the entrances of private driveways or mailboxes that accumulates as a result of highway plowing operations.

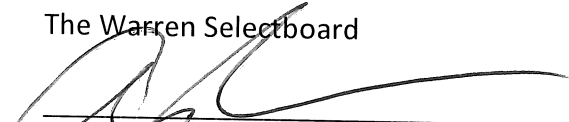
Rural mailbox placement specifications

The Town of Warren requires rural mailboxes to be mounted on a steel pipe 1-1/2" inside diameter or larger, 4X4 nominal wooden post, or a standard of equivalent strength, set at least 2-1/2 feet into the ground. The leading edge of the mailbox itself should be between 2-1/2 and 3 feet outside of the pavement of the regularly travelled surface of gravel road. The bottom of the box should be between 48 and 50 inches above the surface of the adjacent roadway. Adherence to these specifications will be required prior to any assistance the Town of Warren may provide to repair or replace any rural mailbox damage as a consequence of its winter road maintenance service.

Once adopted, this policy supersedes any and all other highway maintenance policies whether written or otherwise.

Adopted: 11/12/19

The Warren Selectboard



Andrew Cunningham, Chair

Bob Ackland, Vice Chair



Luke Youmell



Randy Graves



Camilla Behn

Original Policy (10/25/16) is being updated to include Trash & Trash receptacles.