

CITY OF OMRO SNOW POLICY

In order for a snow and ice removal program to be effective, a written policy must be established. This policy will guide personnel concerned with deicing, plowing, and snow removal efforts. It not only gives snow removal crews a set of guidelines to follow, but also informs the general public of the procedures being followed so they may have a better understanding of the City's snow removal efforts.

This document is the official policy for snow removal for the City of Omro. All existing ordinances regarding snow removal from sidewalks, and parking regulations for snow emergencies remain in effect, and are considered a necessary part of the overall snow removal plan.

The City of Omro will strive to maintain safe conditions for drivers observing winter driving conditions. **However, this is not an absolute "bare pavement" policy.**

It must be recognized that, although this policy sets general guidelines to be followed, each storm has its own character with variable conditions such as wind, extreme temperatures, timing, duration, and moisture content. The policy must remain flexible and take into consideration these variables.

EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY

At this time, the Department of Public Works has:

- 1- 1988 10 Yard Tandem Dump Truck w/Plow
- 1- 2012 5 Yard Dump Truck w/Plow, Wing & Salter
- 1- 1996 5 Yard Dump Truck w/Plow& Salter
- 1- 2011 Front End Loader w/plow and wing
- 1- 2003 New Holland Backhoe w/ Bucket
- 1- 2018 F-250 Pick-up w/plow
- 1- 2011 Tool cat with plow, blower, broom

DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR SNOW & ICE CONTROL PROCEDURES

The On Call Public Works personnel shall generally keep themselves apprised of changing weather conditions. However, the Department of Public Works relies heavily on the observations of Police Department personnel and various Internet weather sites to

alert them to road conditions any time of the day. Weather reports issued by the National Weather Service will also aid in preparation of snow and ice control deployments.

The implementation of the policy shall be dictated by actual road conditions. **Three** inches or more accumulation will generally prompt plowing procedures to start. However, if the onset of the storm is accompanied by freezing rain or icing conditions, deicing procedures may already have been instituted.

If there is less than three inches of snowfall then depending on road conditions only the Priority 1 streets will be plowed and the Priority 2 and 3 streets will be taken care of later, depending on time of day or night and personnel available.

The responsibility for ordering out personnel and equipment for winter operations shall primarily be with the personnel on call. During off duty hours, the on-call personnel and the Police Department shall keep watch.

SAND AND SALT/ABRASIVE MIXTURE

The City uses salt by spreader application for most deicing operations. It should be noted that salt is only 20% as effective at 20 degrees as it is at 30 degrees. At colder temperatures it is even less effective. Therefore “salting” may not occur when temperatures are below 10 degrees. At very low temperatures, salt/abrasives may be used. This is much more expensive. For icy or packed snow conditions, we may use a salt/abrasive mixture to provide traction. These mixtures will be used at intersections where start/stop movements are frequent, on bridges, and on steep hills, where slippery conditions make driving hazardous. The use of salt shall be minimized during extremely cold temperatures.

SNOW & ICE CONTROL PROCEDURES

Deployment for ice control or snow plowing will commence at the direction of the on call personnel and/or Omro Police. Services shall be provided in accordance with the following procedures.

SNOW PLOWING

Snowplowing will commence when, in the opinion of the on-call personnel, sufficient snow exists to be a hazard to traffic. This will generally be above three inches but is subject to other conditions.

Under normal circumstances plowing procedures will be prioritized as follows:

Priority 1 Main Streets

Southside

Main St. (Washington-City Limits)

Larrabee (Michigan-Harrison)

Scott St. (Jefferson- City Limits)
Webster (Main-City Limits)
Harrison (Main- City Limits)
Lincoln Ave. (Main-City Limits)
Tyler & Polk, Alder Ave.,Huron St.
Huron St. (S. Webster Ave.-Stearns Park)
Alder Ave.
Huckleberry Dr. (Goldenrod-Brooke Dr)
Goldenrod (Hwy 21- Huckleberry)
Brooke Dr. (Hwy 21-Huckleberry)

North side

N. Webster (Hwy 116-N-Deadend)
Poygan (Webster- City Limits)
Fox trail (N. Webster- Hwy 116)
Pine St.

Priority 2 Residential Through Streets

Priority 3 Dead Ends, Cul-de-Sacs and Alleys

Where steep hills or other safety concerns exist, a street may be advanced to a higher priority for plowing. For operating efficiency some lower priority streets may be done when equipment is in the area rather than doubling back at a later time. This will vary by storm severity.

Sometimes plows must make two to four passes down a street to clear it curb to curb. The city tries to do this at one time so residents can shovel out driveways and sidewalks. It is best to wait, if possible, until we've finished plowing before shoveling out your driveway approach.

Parked and abandoned vehicles present obstacles to plows attempting to get as close to the curb as possible. We regularly return to plow snow where vehicles had previously been parked.

ICE CONTROL

Ice control will commence, when, in the opinion of the on-call personnel, an unsafe condition for travel exists. Deicing operations can vary greatly, depending on whether there is a need for citywide coverage, or if the slippery areas are isolated. Immediate attention is given to Priority I, areas as designated by the city. The Street Division and Police Department will be in radio contact to assure that priority locations are done in a timely manner.

When icy conditions occur in the City, hazardous situations will present themselves in numerous locations at the same time. It must be realized that salting crews cannot be in all places at all times, and the affect of salting is not immediate. We must exercise some degree of patience, until salting operations can bring icy conditions under control.

SNOW REMOVAL

Snow removal is necessary after heavy storms or a series of storms when and where there is limited or no snow storage area between the sidewalk and street. Snow removal does not occur every time plowing operations occur. This will vary depending on the timing of the storm, the amount received, and the forecast. (Is it going to be sunny and 40 degrees tomorrow, cold and grey, or is more snow expected?)

In the days following a heavy storm, or series of storms, City crews will remove snow from Main St. in the downtown area, piles from municipal lots, and other areas where storage capacity is not sufficient. This will not necessarily be done after every storm event.

OPERATIONAL NOTES

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

When the appropriate condition exists declaration of a snow emergency will be made by the Police Chief or Mayor. A declared emergency will restrict on-street parking around the clock, not just the extended over-night hours.

PRIVATE PLOWING

Deposits On Streets and Near Fire Hydrants Prohibited.

No person shall throw, or put, or cause to be thrown or put, any snow or ice into any street, avenue, or other public place in the City, or cause to be blocked or covered or interfere with the use of fire hydrants or create traffic hazard.

The following actions are specifically prohibited and will result in a citation being issued

1. Plowing snow or ice from private property onto a street or sidewalk
2. Plowing snow or ice across a street or sidewalk and depositing it in the right-or-way

SIDEWALKS

Removal from Sidewalks. Within 24 hours after the cessation of any fall of sleet or snow, it shall be the duty of the owners and/or the occupants of any lot or parcel of land

in the city to remove, or cause to be removed, the snow or sleet from any and all sidewalks and the nearest cross-sidewalks adjacent to the premises of such owner or occupant, and to keep the same free and clear of snow and ice for the full width of the sidewalk.

PRIVATE DRIVES AND PARKING LOTS

No private driveways or parking lots will be plowed by City crews. Some snow and ice may be deposited in private driveways by normal plowing operations. This will not be removed by City crews.

SNOW PILES ON PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS

No person shall cause snow piles to be placed in such a manner as to impede or visually obstruct the safe flow of traffic on public right-of-ways. If snow piles exist which are considered hazardous by the Police Department or Department of Public Works, the owner or occupant of the property will be asked to remove the piles.

STALLED VEHICLES

Street Division personnel shall not tow or push stalled vehicles unless so directed by the Police Department in case of an extreme emergency. Street Division personnel should not provide rides for stranded motorists, although assistance may be provided to the motorist by contacting a supervisor by radio.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints regarding snow or ice removal operations should be directed to the Public Works Director during normal working hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 685-7020 or City Hall at 685-7000.