

**2020/2021
TOWN OF PITKIN
SNOW REMOVAL PLAN**

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A. Purpose

1. The Purpose of the Snow Removal plan is to communicate the process and level of service for snow removal in the Town of Pitkin.
2. The goal of the Town of Pitkin Board of Trustees department is to remove snow from our public roadways as rapidly and efficiently as possible.
3. The aim of snow removal operations is to return road surfaces to safe winter driving conditions as soon as feasible within the limitations of this policy, our limited resources and weather conditions. The following policies and procedures serve as a practical guide for effective snow removal procedures in the Town of Pitkin.

B. Plan Considerations: In developing the policies for how to best undertake winter maintenance activities the Town considers factors including, but not limited to the following:

1. Priority vs capacity (Effective allocation of resources based on priorities);
2. Public safety;
3. The amount of funds available for these operations;
4. The number and availability of contract personnel for these operations;
5. The ability to deliver emergency services;
6. Weather conditions including temperature and snowfall amounts; and
7. Protection of Town and personal property

C. Policy Statement

1. Objectives:
 - a. Provide safe travel conditions for motorists, emergency services, and pedestrians;
 - b. Provide cost effective snow plowing and removal services; and
 - c. Assist Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services in fulfilling their duties
2. Hinderances to plan implementation:
 - a. Parked or stalled private vehicles that restrict or prevent safe roadway movement and plowing;
 - b. Equipment rendered inadequate by the depths of the snow or drifts;
 - c. Residential snow deposited onto public roadways; and

- d. Unforeseen emergencies.

D. Scope of Responsibility

1. The Town of Pitkin is responsible for snow plowing and removal on municipal streets within the town limits;
2. Highway 76, which becomes Main Street within town limits is plowed by Gunnison County;
3. 9th Street and State Street from 9th Street to the Town of Pitkin NE boundary is plowed by Gunnison county; and
4. The Town does not remove snow and ice from private streets, private parking lots or driveways.

E. Level of Service

1. Expectations - The Town of Pitkin Board of Trustees believes it is in the best interest of our residents for the Town of Pitkin to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on our town streets. Snow and ice control services are provided primarily for community travel and safety purposes, and secondly, for residents' convenience. At no time will a second access be provided to a property for the convenience of the resident. The provision of snow and ice control services is on a selective basis for those streets where traffic movement and resultant safety demands are the greatest. The Town has prioritized our streets into categories based on traffic impact and residents' safety. The categories are:
 - Priority 1 – Primary streets include high traffic streets that are used by all residents
 - Priority 2 – Secondary streets include residential streets that are used by some residents
 - Priority 3 – Tertiary streets include streets without winter residences and alleys
2. It is the expectation of our citizens that we will keep plowed town streets sufficiently passable during and following a winter weather incident (this does not mean dry, bare roads). To accomplish this, the Town will provide, to the extent reasonably possible, effective and efficient measures consistent with generally accepted standard practices to maintain and/or restore mobility. Due to the many variables associated with winter weather, each event is unique.
3. Factors – Factors that influence when and what measures we use include:
 - a. air and pavement temperatures;
 - b. wind speeds and directions;
 - c. precipitation rates and types;
 - d. time of onset;
 - e. storm event duration;
 - f. traffic activity; and
 - g. availability of funds, equipment, contract personnel and materials

4. Goal - Snow control measures are directed to achieving and maintaining relatively safe traffic movement on public streets within a reasonable time period. Therefore, efforts are first concentrated on the higher traffic streets. Other low-volume streets are included if and when resources are available.

F. Implementation

1. The policies and procedures outlined herein will be in effect when weather conditions could cause accumulations of sleet, ice or snow on our maintained roadways and will be in effect during the normal winter season.
2. Snow removal and management operations will be provided to the Town of Pitkin by third-party contractors.
3. Entities providing snow removal services are responsible for deciding when to begin snow control operations. The criterion for that decision includes:
 - a. Snow accumulation, or expected accumulation of 4 or more inches;
 - b. Icy conditions which affect travel; and
 - c. Availability of snow removal resources

G. Priorities: During snow/ice conditions snow will be removed according to established priorities. Priorities are set based upon traffic volume, public safety, and access to primary routes. Streets in Pitkin are prioritized as primary, secondary, or tertiary routes for snow plowing and snow removal operations. The following summarizes the snow removal priorities:

1. **Primary Routes:** These streets are given first priority since they are used for primary access to Town by all residents. Primary streets will be maintained for all snow events.
 - a. Main Street 100 Block to 900 Block
 - b. State Street 100 Block to 1200 Block
2. **Secondary Routes:** Some streets not designated as primary routes are considered secondary routes and will receive snow removal service upon completion of the primary routes and if resources allow. These roadways are principle arterial streets and are generally streets that connect a primary street to residential streets.
 - a.
3. **Tertiary Routes:** All streets not designated as primary or secondary routes are considered tertiary routes and will receive snow removal service upon completion of the primary and secondary routes if resources allow. These roadways are minor arterial streets (alleys) and are generally streets that

receive low traffic, are used by a minimal number of winter residences, or are used by no winter residences. **A winter residence is defined as...**

a.

H. Delay of Snow Removal Services: At least one or more of the following situations may delay all or some of the services provided during snow events:

1. Vehicles parked and/or blocking the street eliminating access for plows;
2. Equipment breakdown;
3. Manpower shortage;
4. Residents placing snow from yards or driveways onto public streets;
5. Weather so severe as to cause crews to be called in for their own protection; and
6. Unforeseen conditions and emergencies.

I. Driveways and Private Roadways: Snow Removal Requirements for Residents: The Town of Pitkin does not remove snow from private streets, private alleys, or driveways.

1. Snow left adjacent to a private street, private alley, or driveway by the plow is the resident's responsibility.
2. Snow clearing from private streets, private alleys, and driveways is the resident's responsibility.
3. Snow may not be pushed into town roadways from private streets, private alleys, or driveways.

J. Driveway/Private Roadway Snow Removal – Recommendations to Residents:

1. Aim snow blowers into front yards away from Town roadways. Ice and rocks, as well as powder snow are blown out many feet. This material can hit parked or passing cars, which can cause damage to those vehicles as well as possible accidents. Also, snow blown onto the street may freeze and become slick, which may cause accidents.
2. Snow left adjacent to a private roadway or driveway by snowplows (a berm) should be placed to either side of the driveway or onto your own property but not into the street.
3. Snow moved from private roadways or driveways should be placed to either side of the roadway or driveway or onto your own property but not into the street.

K. After the Storm: After snowstorms, the following services may be needed and will be completed by entities contracting with the Town of Pitkin for snow removal services:

1. Additional cleaning of intersections and roadways.

L. Appendices

1. Snow plowing priority map (Appendix A)