

Town of Morris, Connecticut

Operational Policy for Snow and Ice Control

Policy: It is the goal and intent of the Town of Morris to provide timely and cost-effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the roadways of the Town for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and the general motoring public.

Procedure: The objective stated above will be achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures outlined in this policy. Due to many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm or weather event may require slightly different efforts and or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

Level of Service: It is not possible to maintain a black, snow and ice free roadway at all times during or after a storm event. It is the intention of the Town to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during winter storms. The Town of Morris does not have a bare roads policy and as such citizens and motorists should expect to find snow covered areas during storms. Motorists should take proper precautions and drive for conditions. During the overnight hours, crews may stand down if conditions allow and resume at four AM preparing roads for morning traffic.

Operations: It is our policy to start snow removal operations once plowable amounts have accumulated on the road surface. At times we may elect not to remove snow due to impending changes in weather, temperature and or precipitation types.

Pre-treatment and ice control may be addressed prior to the actual storm beginning, during the storm as seen effective and at the conclusion of the storm.

Routes: The Town of Morris maintains approximately 25 miles of road during winter storms. There are three routes that provide snow removal and ice control. Each route is an average of 8 miles in length and is covered by a large single axle truck equipped with an 11 foot snowplow and material spreader. During heavy

snow events (greater than 12 inches or drifting conditions) an addition larger tandem axle truck equipped with plow and 11 foot shelving wing, as well as a large wheel loader with plow can be utilized.

A small 1 ton truck with plow and material spreader covers a route which maintains municipal buildings as well as assisting with roadway snow removal.

The following roads do not receive winter maintenance: Slab Meadow from paved section to Pitch Road. Chestnut Hill Road from Litchfield town line to Pitch Road. East Chestnut Hill Road From the paved section to Pitch Road. Pitch Road from Pitch Reservoir Dam to Chestnut Hill Road. Farnham Road from the paved section to Pitch Road.

Pitch Road from Route 109 to the Pitch Dam and Munger Lane from the paved section to Bergmann Hill are plowed open after the conclusion of the storm.

Application of Materials:

The Town utilizes salt as its primary tool for control of ice on our roadways. Untreated salt is used primarily when temperatures are above 25 degrees. At temperatures lower than 25 degrees, salt that is treated with an environmentally friendly by-product of the brewing of beer, similar to Molasses is used. The sugars in this product work with salt to melt ice to a much lower temperature. It also helps negate some of the corrosive effects of the salt on metal. It is also used to pre-treat roadways prior to a storm because it is sticky it stays on the road surface and resists being blown off the roadway by traffic.

The Highway Department calibrates the equipment that applies salt annually to assure that quantities applied to the road are in keeping with recommended standards. Our goal is to provide safe roadways with the least impact to the environment.

A mix of sand and salt is used on gravel road surfaces to aid in traction. It also may be used on paved roadways at very low air temperatures when treated salt will do little to melt snow and ice.

Parking on Town Roads:

Motor Vehicles shall not be parked on Town Roads so as to obstruct snow removal operations from November 1st to April 1st. Vehicles obstructing the clearing of snow will be towed away at the owner's expense. This ordinance has been in place since January 1st 1972.

Placing of Snow on to Roadways:

Shoveling or plowing snow onto the roadway creates a hazard to drivers and to Town Crews plowing snow. The chunks of snow and ice create an uneven road surface that can take drivers by surprise and might cause a loss of control of their vehicle. Plow trucks hitting these piles can cause extra stress on equipment possibly causing damage. Home owners and contractors clearing driveways, parking areas and private roadways should not place any snow or ice into the roadways. Violators could be cited under State Law.

Plow Damage:

The Town is not responsible for damage to lawns, walls, fences, steps trees or shrubs or anything located within the Towns Right of Way.

Damage to Mailboxes:

The Town has a policy regarding mailboxes damaged during snow removal operations. This policy only pertains to damage caused by direct contact with Town owned equipment or contractor's equipment performing operations under direction of the Highway Department. (The Policy is attached and part of this Snow and Ice Policy)

Adopted 12 | 6 | 2016

Morris Board of Selectman

Town of Morris Mailbox Policy

In order to provide a fair and uniform resolution to disputes involving mailboxes damaged by town trucks, the Morris Board of Selectmen approves the following policy concerning repair/replacement of mailboxes.

1. All mailboxes should be securely fastened to a sturdy post which is sufficiently anchored in the ground to resist the impact of the plowed snow.
2. In accordance with current postal guidelines, the mailboxes should be nine (9) inches from the edge of the curb or edge of pavement in order to prevent contact by the snowplow itself. The height of the mailbox should be between 42" and 48" from the road surface.
3. If it is determined a mailbox was struck by a town snowplow, the Town will reimburse the owner a maximum of \$25.00 for the post and \$25.00 for the mailbox.

No mailbox or post will be considered for the damage reimbursement if the post shows dry rot or is otherwise unstable.

The Town will reimburse the owner for damage to the mailbox and/or post only when the Town's equipment is found to have made direct contact with the mailbox, not when the mailbox is knocked over by snow or slush that is pushed by the plow.

The Morris Road Foreman or designated representative is authorized to use reasonable discretion in resolving disputes involving unusual circumstances.

Adopted by the BOS on 02-21-12