

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY

INTENT

The Village of Ephraim is responsible for maintenance of over 14 miles of Village roads, which are subject to freezing rain, ice, snow, and drifting at any time from November through April. The intent of establishing the Village of Ephraim Snow and Ice Control Policy is to provide a uniform understanding of the priorities and procedures used to combat snow and ice related conditions. Each winter storm has unique characteristics. Factors such as storm intensity and duration, wind, temperature and moisture content affect the total amount of snow and ice accumulation and influence the methodology used to combat the resulting snow and/or ice related conditions. The timing of a storm will influence the removal of the snow and ice.

The intent of this policy is to provide a communication tool to better inform the elected official, general public, contracted snow control operator, and emergency personnel; but also to define and outline snow and ice control objectives and procedures as established by the Village of Ephraim.

This policy superseded any and all previously written documents or written policies of the Village of Ephraim regarding snow and ice control.

PROCEDURE

The contracted snow removal service shall be on call twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week for the purpose of winter road service. The start of snow and/or ice control operations for any storm is dependent upon immediate and anticipated conditions. Because of the many weather variables encountered, maintenance requirements differ for each snow and ice event.

Depending on the timing of the snowfall event every effort is made to provide motorists with safe winter driving conditions prior to critical time periods. The most critical time periods are weekday mornings and early evenings. In order to provide for the most efficient and effective snowplowing as possible given the Village's limited resources, a priority for snowplowing has been established. School bus routes, location of emergency services, schools and businesses have been considered as well as population density along Village roads.

The Village Administrator or her designee has full authority to begin snow and ice operations or suspend the operations in severe storms when there is danger to snow control operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue. The Door County Sheriff's Department will assist in notification of the Village Administrator or her designee, of changing road conditions. Due to limited budgets, the Village may not have resources to handle severe snow and ice storms as rapidly as desired. No guarantee is made or implied as to the length or snow and ice operations. Subsequent winter storm events may happen at a frequency where it is not possible to obtain passable road conditions. The severity of a winter storm event, roadway temperatures and availability of resources along with other factors will dictate how soon passable roadway conditions can be obtained.

General winter maintenance requirements have been established for different snow and ice events:

Freezing Rain, Sleet, Black Ice, and Freeze/Thaw

These types of events are based on changing weather conditions. The Village Administrator or her designee will determine the required ice control response based on current and forecasted conditions. Ice control operations may range from applying sand/salt material on some intersections, hills and curves to applying material Village wide during a major ice control event.

The Village is concerned about the effects of sand and salt on the environment and will limit its use for that reason. Therefore, it is the policy of the Village to utilize a sand and salt mixture. This provides for traction but is not intended to provide bare pavement during winter conditions.

Snowfall of Less than 2”

General snow plowing or application of sand/salt may not be necessary. Normal ice control procedures may be followed to produce safe winter driving conditions. The Village Administrator or her designee may deem plowing necessary if a series of less than 2” snowfalls has caused a buildup of snow on Village roads.

Snowfall Greater than 2”

The Contractor for snow/ice control will begin operations as soon as practical as weather permits. Depending on the duration of any snowfall event, it may be necessary to continually clear priority roads. Snow and ice removal operations may be temporarily suspended if conditions become dangerous for snowplow operators. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations may include severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility, equipment failure and rapid accumulation of snow. Under severe conditions, such as limited visibility, or where weather patterns suggest additional ice and snow, roads may not be plowed or treated “full width”, and service in some areas may be delayed.

The Village will endeavor to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowfall. Furthermore, this does not mean the road will be free of snow and ice. One of the goals of winter maintenance is to achieve “passable roadways” within the limitations imposed by weather conditions, the availability of resources and environmental concerns during a winter storm event. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, a “passable roadway” is defined as a roadway surface that is free from drifts, snow ridges and as much ice and snow pack as is practical and can be traveled safely at reasonable speeds. A passable roadway should not be confused with a “dry pavement” or “bare pavement”, which is essentially free of all ice, snow, and any free moisture from shoulder to shoulder. This “dry/bare pavement” condition may not exist until the weather conditions improve to the point where this pavement condition can be provided. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the definition of “reasonable speed” is considered a speed that a vehicle can travel without losing traction. During and immediately after a winter storm event, a reasonable speed will most likely be lower than the posted speed limit. Motorists can expect some inconvenience and will be expected to modify their driving practices to suit road conditions.

EMERGENCIES

During snow and ice storms, request for response to emergency conditions must come from the appropriate emergency agency, (i.e., Sheriff's Department, Fire Department, etc.). The Village will not respond to unverified emergency requests directly from the public.

DAMAGES

The contracted equipment operators are expected to be knowledgeable about the routes they are plowing. They are to be familiar with existing conditions that would affect the speed or rate at which they plow and should use every precaution in avoiding plowing practices that would cause damage to private or public property. While reasonable efforts will be made to avoid damaging private property, snow and ice control operations may result in damage to the property of others.

The Village or Contractor cannot be held responsible for damage to grass, trees or other landscaping materials or vegetation in the Village right-of-way caused by sand/salt or other snow/ice control operations and therefore will not make repairs or compensate residents for such damages.

The Village or Contractor assumes no responsibility for damage to any items of personal property located in the Village right-of-way, (with the possible exception of properly installed mailboxes as described below), whether by direct or indirect contact with snow or ice control equipment. It is the responsibility of owners to keep the road rights-of-way clear of vehicles, trashcans, and other items of personal property in order to facilitate the proper snow and ice control operations.

Property owners must meet all specifications of the US Postal Service and Wisconsin Department of Transportation for a properly installed mailbox. The property owner assumes all risk of damage if the mailbox does not meet these specifications. The property owner of a properly installed mailbox also assumes all risk of damage except where a mailbox is damaged through contact by snow removal vehicles. If, in the opinion of the Village Administrator or her designee, a properly installed mailbox is damaged due to direct contact by a snow removal vehicle, the Contractor, at his option, will repair, replace, or make other arrangements with the owner to correct the damage to the mailbox. Under no circumstances will the Contractor pay more than \$40 to correct damage to a mailbox. If a mailbox is damaged due to indirect contact, including the force of snow generated by the snow removal vehicle, the Contractor and Village will assume no responsibility.

Snowplowing unavoidably results in snow being deposited on driveways or their approaches. It is the responsibility of landowners to remove snow from their driveways and approaches.

The Village shall not be responsible for any damage or injuries caused by independent contractors performing snow or ice control operations for the Village. Any claims of damage must be made directly to the Contractor.

COMPLAINTS

The Village Administrator or her designee shall take complaints regarding snow and ice control during normal working hours. Complaints involving access to property or problems requiring

immediate attention shall be handled on a priority basis. Response time should not exceed twenty-four (24) hours for any complaint. It should be understood that complaint responses are to ensure that the provisions of this policy have been fulfilled. It is the Village's intention to log all complaints and review this policy, taking into consideration any changing conditions in the Village's circumstances, any complaints or comment received, and the experience learned from undertaking snow and ice control procedures.

RESIDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The cooperation of Village residents is requested. Residents are urged to:

- Exercise good judgment. In severe weather conditions, drive only when necessary. Adjust to conditions, drive at a safe speed.
- Be prepared. Equip your vehicle with snow tires. Carry sand or salt, a shovel, blanket, and flashlight.
- Do not plow, snow blow, or shovel snow onto the roadway.
- Do not park on the side of the roadway.
- Stay back at least 200 feet from trucks which are plowing or spreading materials.
- Remove snow from around mailboxes.
- Expect some inconvenience due to winter weather and please be patient!

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Snow Removal Agreement at the Village of Ephraim, Ephraim, Wisconsin, on the day and year indicated next to each signature.

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM

By Michael McCutcheon Date Signed 13 Nov 13
Michael McCutcheon, Village President

By Charity Buhr Date Signed 11/13/13
Charity Buhr, Village Clerk

CONTRACTOR

Name: Peil Construction, LLC

By [Signature] Date Signed 2013/1/12