



PARK COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Our Mission

Perform snow removal operations on the county road network in a manner that keeps our roads as safe as possible consistent with prevailing weather conditions and available resources.

Our Goal

To open all county maintained roads on the first day of a storm in accordance with the procedures explained below, and to maintain the roads as safe as reasonably possible throughout the storm.

General Information

Our crews will prepare for snow removal operations the day before when a storm is predicted, checking equipment and loading abrasives.



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Snow removal operations will begin in force when snow depths are 4 inches or greater. Regardless of snow depth we will have snow patrols out checking trouble spots and applying abrasive material as necessary.

Should a midday or afternoon storm occur, our crews will be on the roads conducting snow removal operations as soon as is practical and will typically work until 8pm. If necessary, they will be back on the road on the normal 4am to 5am schedule the following day.

Unfortunately, our resources do not allow for split shifts and we must allow for crew rest in the interest of crew safety as well as public safety.

Procedures

- ❖ Plowing and sanding operations occur in four phases during a storm. The following priorities determine the order in which roads are plowed in each phase:
 - **Priority 1** - Main arterial roads that provide for high traffic volume, connecting neighborhoods to major transportation corridors
 - **Priority 2** – Collector roads usually within a subdivision that connect to arterial roads, school zones and school bus routes.
 - **Priority 3** – Residential or other local roads that carry moderate to low traffic volume.
 - **Priority 4** – Cul-de-sacs or other dead-end roads carrying very low traffic volume.



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Phase I

- ❖ Initial opening of all Priority 1 through 3 roads, in that order. Storm severity, including snow depth and high winds, may delay response time for Priority 3 roads because initial opening of major arterial roads may require additional effort.

Phase II

- ❖ Plowing and sanding of problem roads having steep inclines, curves, bridges or overpasses. Widening of any Priority 1 through 3 roads deemed necessary. Repeat plowing of all roads initially open as snow continues to accumulate.

Phase III

- ❖ Removal of packed snow and ice on all Priority 1 through 3 roads where possible and deemed necessary as snowfall accumulation slows. Plowing and sanding operations on Priority 4 roads will occur as resource availability allows. Intermittent sanding as necessary by road priority.



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Phase IV

- ❖ Plow cul-de-sacs and dead-end roads with low traffic volume, of 50 vehicles or less per day, when storm event is over. Continuation of widening operations to improve safe travel and prepare for additional accumulation during subsequent storms.

Application of Traction Materials (Sanding)

- ❖ Sanding of most roads is limited during heavy snowfall because the sand is quickly covered and may be removed as additional plowing occurs. When applying sanding, special attention is given to road sections posing specific safety concerns. These include, but are not limited to: school zones, police and fire stations, bridges and overpasses, turn lanes, acceleration or deceleration lanes, and approaches to intersections that are stop-sign or yield controlled, curves, steep grades, heavy traffic areas, areas of ice accumulation, and areas with other known problems.



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Snow Removal Clarifications

Driveways

- ❖ Driveway approaches affected during Phases I, II and III are the property owner or resident's responsibility to clear. When snow removal or widening in Phase IV is being carried out, our operators will make every reasonable effort not to plow back into driveways; however, on narrow roads it is difficult and it will happen on occasion.

Mailboxes and Fences

- ❖ Mailboxes, newspaper delivery boxes or fences placed alongside the traveled roadway or within County Right of Way are installed at the owner's risk. If an operator strikes a properly installed mailbox or fence with a plow, the operator will report the incident. Mailboxes and fences damaged by snow load during normal plowing operations are not the county's responsibility. If a plow strikes a properly installed mailbox, it will be replaced with a standard, rural mailbox, (no custom mailboxes). Typically cluster mailboxes are required and will sustain heavy snow loads without damage. Postal regulations require residents to clear snow in front of mailboxes to allow for mail delivery.



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Snow Pushed onto County Road or Right-of-Way

- ❖ The practice of pushing or throwing snow onto or across Park County Roads endangers the traveling public and snowplow operators. While plowing private drives snow should remain on the property which the driveway serves. Residents and private contractors may receive a warning or summons for snow pushed onto County roads and Right of Way from sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, etc. under the provisions of Colorado Revised Statute 43-5-301

Vehicles Parked or Abandoned

- ❖ Roads on which vehicles or other obstructions have been abandoned or otherwise parked, restricting the safe and continuous operation of snow removal equipment may not be plowed until the vehicles or obstructions are removed. Vehicles obstructing the Right of Way may be tagged and towed at the owner's expense.



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Request for Emergency Snow Removal

- ❖ All requests for emergency snow removal shall be routed through the Park County 911 Communication Center. If the request is determined to be a life or limb threatening emergency by the on-scene incident commander, Public Works will be notified and equipment will be dispatched. Unless snow removal equipment is out and conducting operations in the area, the necessary response time may be multiple hours and may not be the best solution for a validated emergency. Public Works will respond to each validated emergency and will terminate response only when the emergency is resolved or when called off by the Park County Sheriff Department or 911 Communication Center (see Park County Snow Emergency Procedures 2016 at [link below](#)).

What Can You Do TO Help Us Serve You

- ❖ Stay back 200 feet or more behind a snow plow, our operators on occasion must make abrupt movements or turns and at times must back up with limited vision. Keep in mind; if you cannot see the snow plows rearview mirror, they cannot see you.
- ❖ Please be courteous and patient, if you must pass a snow plow make sure you can do so safely, honk your horn and flash your lights.
- ❖ Never attempt to stop a snow plow or to obstruct its path. Plows must maintain a certain speed to be effective.



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- ❖ Please warn children of the danger of standing or playing near the roadway while waiting for the school bus or walking to school.
- ❖ Please do not allow children to build snowmen or snow caves on or near the roadway or on the shoulders. Do not let children play in the roadway.
- ❖ Joggers, walker and bicyclists should wear reflective clothing and get off of the roadway (step into a driveway) to allow plows to pass without being forced into the oncoming traffic's lane; doing so with a 10 to 12 foot wide snowplow blade is difficult and dangerous.
- ❖ Do not park vehicles, trailers or place obstacles (e.g. trash cans) in the Right of Way.

Blizzard Conditions

- On occasion extreme weather conditions force the county to temporarily cease operations and close a road or a section of a road usually due to snow density or blowing snow. We cannot morally ask our operators to continue under such conditions. Be assured that as soon as the condition subsides or the next operational period opening a closed road will be one of our highest priorities.



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General

- To our citizens, please know the Park County Public Works staff is dedicated to the safety of our citizens and the traveling public. It is our pleasure to serve you. Thank you for your cooperation in the snow removal effort.

Who Do I Call or Email for Additional Information

- ❖ If you have an emergency situation call **911 immediately!**
- ❖ If you need information, would like to file a complaint, have a special request or a suggestion, please call at (719) 836-4277.
- ❖ If you would like to email us, please send emails to publicworks@parkco.us
- ❖ All phone calls or emails will be responded to within 24 business hours. Even though it may take a bit longer to answer specific questions or concerns.



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Helpful Links

Park County Snow Emergency Procedures 2017

CDOT (For Concerns on Highway 9, 24 & 285): <https://www.codot.gov/>

Town of Alma: <http://townofalma.com/>

Town of Fairplay: <http://fairplayco.us/>

Closed Roads:

Tidbits regarding snow removal districts, road miles, equipment, man power, materials

Disclaimer: The snow removal policy is a work in progress; additional information will be posted to the website as developed