

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Town of St. Germain roads are subject to freezing rain, ice, snow and drifting at any time from November through April. The Town board endeavors 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 or ice storm. Furthermore, this does not mean the roads will be free of ice and snow.

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

The Town is responsible for maintenance of approximately 91 miles of roads. By State Statute 893.83(1), the town has three (3) weeks to remove natural snow and ice accumulations. The Town's goal is to maintain the roads in as good winter driving conditions as weather, equipment, and budgets allow.

Planning and preparing for snow and ice operations are difficult due to the uniqueness of each storm. No two storms are ever identical. Factors such as rate of snowfall, moisture content, accumulation, temperatures, time of day and wind velocity determine the uniqueness of each storm.

During snow and ice storms, town road crew will respond to emergency conditions to the extent practical. The Town will not respond to unverified emergency requests direct from the public. The requests must come from the appropriate emergency agency (i.e., fire, police, etc.). The Town will not take any responsibility for removal of snow that is plowed into private driveways during road clearing operations.

PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS

Driveway maintenance is the property owner's responsibility. The Town of St. Germain, the Town Board, Town employees and operators are not responsible for snow removal from private driveways and yards. The Town equipment will not remove snow from yards and drives. If possible, do not plow your driveway until the snow plow has gone by. The Town of St. Germain, the Town Board, Town employees and operators are not responsible for any damage occurred in the snow removal operations from private driveways and yards.

State Statute prohibits plowing any snow from driveways on the town road. You are liable for fines and damages. If you hire someone to plow your driveway, be sure they know about this policy.

ICE REMOVAL

The Town uses an abrasive sand treated with rock salt. The salt is necessary to keep the sand from freezing. The sand will only be applied at curves, most intersections, hills and steep grades. Certain weather conditions may allow the sandsalt to promote a thawing or clearing of compact snow and/or ice. There is no State or Federal law that requires the Town to apply salt and/or sandsalt. Salt and/or sandsalt will only be applied as much as the budget and/or availability allows.

SNOW REMOVAL

Planning for a snow removal operation begins when there is two inches (2@) or more of snow expected to accumulate during the week and when there is four inches (4") on the weekends or holidays. The Town Chair or his/her designee, along with the County Highway Department, has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations in severe storm conditions when there is danger to operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue. Due to limited budgets, the Town, may not have sufficient equipment to handle severe snow and ice storms as rapidly as usual. No guarantee is made or implied as to the length of snow and ice removal operations. The main objective of snow removal operations is to plow the blacktop surfaces to shoulders, wing and possibly bench after roads are opened, and try to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions

SNOW PLOWING PRIORITY ROADS

The Town of St. Germain determines the priority of roads and streets as follows: all daily traveled school bus routes and U.S. mail routes. Operators are also instructed to plow the Northland Pines Elementary School prior to 7:30 a.m. on school days with sanding as needed. All other roads will be plowed as soon as equipment is available or in the immediate area with available time.

MAIL BOXES

Operators are instructed to be very cautious near mail boxes. In most cases, a properly installed mail box will permit a snow plow to clear the snow underneath it. Most cases of damaged mail boxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. Mailboxes are seldom hit by the plow.

When struck by the plow, not the discharge of the plow, the replacement of mailboxes by the Town of St. Germain shall be limited to a \$25.00 payment. Special decorative mailboxes and/or posts will not be provided. If the owner wishes to install a decorative mailbox and/or post that meets standards, it shall be at the owner=s expense.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints given Town officials, if given in a respectable manner, will be relayed to the proper personnel. The Town Board, employees, spouses and family members will not deal with rude, obscene or belligerent complaints. Complaints regarding individual operators must be submitted in writing, signed and filed. The complaint will be reviewed by the Town Board at their first regular posted town meeting. All people involved will have the opportunity to be present at that time.

CIRCUMSTANCES OR EXCEPTIONS OF THIS POLICY

This policy will be adjusted to meet specific storm circumstances. Listed below are several special conditions:

- § Plowing of snow will be limited in storms early in the fall and late spring on gravel surface roads due to the lack of frost to support the snow plows. Plowing gravel off the roads creates a hazard as well as being very expensive to the taxpayer.
- § Plowing may be limited on paved roads during spring break up.

Operations may be suspended or reduced if:

- § Fuel is not available due to lack of electricity.
- § Qualified operators are not available.
- § Equipment failure.

The Town Chairman has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations. This may be done in severe storm conditions when there is danger to operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue.

This Winter Road Maintenance Policy shall be deemed to be in force after its approval by the Town Board.

Approved by the Town Board of the Town of St. Germain this ____ day of December, 2006.

Chairman, Jim Wendt

Public Works Chair, Peggy Nimz

Public Works Co-Chair, Todd Wiese

Supervisor, Ted Ritter

Supervisor, Lee Christensen