



WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define and outline snow and ice control procedures in Warrington Township. This policy supersedes all previously written documents or unwritten Township policies regarding snow and ice control

General Guidelines

The policy's intent is to provide a uniform understanding of the priorities used to combat snow and ice related road conditions. Each winter storm has unique characteristics. Climatological factors such as storm intensity, duration, wind, temperature and moisture content affect the total amount of snow/ice accumulation and thus the proper response to these conditions.

The Public Works Department 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. Furthermore, this does not mean the streets will be free of ice and snow.

The aim of snow and ice control operations is to return street surfaces to normal winter conditions as soon as feasible within the limitation of the policy and the Township's limited resources. The desired results can usually be attained by the proper use of storm forecasts, personnel, equipment and materials. However, flexibility is needed to adapt to the variety of circumstances and conditions during a snow or ice storm.

Response Triggers

During snow and ice conditions, calls from the Police and Fire Departments regarding accidents, medical or other emergency situations are given top priority. The Public Works Department does not respond to unverified "emergency" requests from the public. Such requests are referred to the department best equipped to verify and respond to the emergency. Upon request of the appropriate agency, the Public Works Department will provide assistance as necessary.

Priority System

In order to establish an effective program for dealing with the treatment of many miles of road, the Township has developed a priority response system. The entire Township roadway network is designated as Priority I, II or III type roads.

Priority I

The Priority I roads entail the main collector roads and corridors through the Township. Also included under Priority I are any emergency response facilities, to which one (1) DPW crew shall be assigned at all times. Of these facilities, the township building shall be plowed last.

Priority II

Priority II roads are considered major secondary roads which link or tie into the Priority I roads.

Priority III

Priority III road represent the remaining portions of Warrington's roadway system, primarily subdivision roads and cul-de-sacs.

Once all Priority I-III roads have been plowed, DPW crews then proceed to push back any intersections that may require additional treatment. Only after this phase do the crews move into the Priority IV areas.

Priority IV

Priority IV are low priority and non-roadway locations that will only receive snow and ice control treatment after the Priority I-III areas have been adequately addressed to mitigate all public safety hazards.

These low priority areas include parks and trail systems and their treatment shall be at the sole discretion of the Public Works Director based on the storm's severity. Tennis and basketball courts are not plowed. Under no circumstances shall overtime or private contractors be used to address these areas.

The new 202 Parkway Trails and trailheads shall be considered Priority IV areas.

All Priority IV area shall receive a sand treatment only. All trails shall be properly marked advising residents that trails may not be maintained during extreme weather conditions.

Plowing Procedures

When snow is predicted to accumulate greater than two-inches (2"), all trucks shall be mounted with plows. Plowing starts when snow accumulates between 2 ½ and 3 ½ inches depending on air temperature.

Pre-treatment of roads with a 50/50 salt/cinder combination begins when either the Police Department notifies Public Works or when DPW response crews observe slippery conditions. The Department plows all priority roads simultaneously using the sector system.

Plowing and salting will be done simultaneously. If the storm continues in intensity and snow is falling heavily, plowing will continue on Priority I roads, but salting shall be suspended

in order to save material. As long as snow continues to fall, plowing shall be restricted to Priority I roads only, unless otherwise directed by the supervisor in charge.

Once the snow stops, plowing and salting shall resume on the assigned Priority I, II and III roads until all roads are complete.

Plowing routes will be established in writing and a list of all routes will be given to each truck driver to use as a reference guide within each district.

Use of Private Contractors

The equipment necessary to supplement the Township's trucks or loaders will be hired on an as-needed basis for each storm. The Township will assign one of its own trucks to each sector handled by a subcontractor to resolve any customer complaints that may arise and to supervise the plowing quality of each private contractor. It will continue to be a policy to hire trucks for salting and plowing as necessary and the decision to activate their use shall be at the discretion of the Director of Public Works or his designee.

Annual Bidding Process

In most cases, all hired equipment will be on contract pursuant to an annual bidding process to comply with state liquid fuel regulations.

Emergency Procurement Procedures

During severe snow emergencies, it may become necessary to hire additional equipment for hauling snow and clearing parking areas. In these rare circumstances, prices will be obtained by the Director of Public works or his designee and approval for hiring would be at the discretion of the Township Manager after consultation with the Board Chairman and Township Solicitor.

Other Policy Provisions

- DPW crews will clear and salt highly-trafficked Township sidewalks in conjunction with the roads. Sidewalks will only be treated with salt or an additional product. Sidewalks and connecting trails to schools receive the highest priority.
- State highways are not plowed unless there is a state of emergency declared by Warrington Township and/or PennDOT requests plowing assistance.
- Township crew assignments are made in such a manner to comply with all regulations related to CDL Drivers and minimum resting requirements.
- Under no circumstances shall the Department deviate from the salt/cinder mix utilized by PennDOT crews to satisfy special neighborhood requests.
