

## **Meade County, South Dakota Snow Removal Policy**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to formalize and establish Meade County's level of service with respect to the removal of snow or ice, as well as the placement of sand, salt or other abrasive material on its County Highway Road System.

### **Operational Statement**

Meade County will initiate snow removal operations to maintain traffic as long as weather conditions are such that plowing can be done safely and effectively for at least five (5) hours.

The Board of County Commissioners in conjunction with the County Highway Superintendent shall be the sole judges as to the necessity for snow removal operations and repairs. The County Highway Superintendent, or their assignee, has the responsibility for initiating all snow removal actions using their best judgment and considering several factors, including but not limited to: prevailing weather conditions, amount of snow fall, type of snow fall, areas affected, and emergency or extreme conditions.

The general practice will be as follows: When snow fall is at least two inches, but less than four inches, all hard surfaced roads will be plowed during normal working days, provided that the prevailing winds are such that snow remains on the traveled portion of the road. With a snowfall of four inches or more, all gravel roads as-well-as hard surfaced roads will be plowed during normal working days. A snowfall of four inches or more may result in plowing activities being conducted before and after normal working days, as well as weekends and holidays. If a snowfall is less than 2 inches, plowing activities may be conducted if drifting across road surfaces is impeding travel. Gravel roads will be plowed by setting the blade a minimum of 2 inches above the surfacing. This reduces the amount of gravel displacement during plowing operations.

The entire width of a portion of a roadway may not be completely cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow/ice, or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right-of-way, with the exception that during removal operations, snow may be temporarily stored on a portion of the traveled way. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in their corners and may result in piles of unequal height.

A Storm Record (see attached) shall be completed within 48 hours following a snow removal operation. This record will contain operating times, weather conditions, resources committed, and results.

Clearing snow from private drives or farm entrances and pushing such snow across county roads is prohibited. This practice creates a serious safety hazard and adds to the time and cost of snow removal road maintenance. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others.

### **Prioritization**

The County Highway Superintendent will determine which roads are a priority for snow removal and the sequence of plowing. Highway Department personnel may provide input on the decisions, taking into account reported snow fall amounts and the areas affected.

In situations involving a declared emergency and/or blizzard conditions the priorities for plowing will be:

1. Human life and critical needs;
2. School bus routes;
3. Main county roads; and
4. Mail routes.

Public funds cannot be used for snow removal on private property unless conditions are such that the situation constitutes an emergency.

Whenever possible, county roads will be opened according to the Planned Priority Route Map (see attached), as prepared by the County Highway Superintendent and approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

**Sanding**

The County Highway Department may sand certain areas, to include 300' before and after bridges, uphill areas and curves, and hard surfaced road intersections on the Meade County Highway System with stop signs.

Other sites may also be sanded, including:

1. High traffic volume areas;
2. Areas with numerous school bus stops;
3. Accident or emergency vehicle danger areas, as identified by the County Sheriff's Office; and
4. Other locations identified by the County Highway Superintendent or County Highway Department personnel.

The County Highway Department Superintendent, or their assignee, has the authority to sand before and after normal working hours, due to adverse weather conditions.

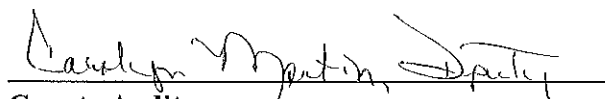
**Enforcement and Implementation**

To the extent that any previous rule, regulation, policy or past practice, written or unwritten, is in conflict with the provisions of this policy, such is hereby withdrawn, voided and all personnel should conduct themselves in conformity with the policy. This policy is not intended to create any duty to any individual member of the public or to protect any particular or circumscribed class of persons. At least one or more of the following situations, which will delay all or some of the services, provided, may affect all or parts of this policy:

1. Equipment breakdowns;
2. Vehicles disabled in deep snow;
3. Weather so severe as to cause crews to be called in from the roads, i.e. whiteout conditions;
4. Equipment rendered inadequate by the depths of the snow or drifts;
5. Crew breaks, and breaks required for refueling, refilling of material spreaders and installing chains or new blades; and
6. Unforeseen emergencies.

Adopted this 12 day of FEBRUARY, 2019

  
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Chairperson, Board of Commissioners

  
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County Auditor