

CHAPTER 14
SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL ON COUNTY ROADS

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SEC. 14-1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish Scott County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, as provided in Section 668.10 (2), 1995 Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted and/or available for this service, and as contained in the county's secondary road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The clearance of roads at any cost, under any circumstances, day or night, is not the County's policy.

SEC. 14-2. LEVEL OF SERVICE

Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of local residents of Scott County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will from time to time have upon it snow and ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be concentrated. The county's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for the purpose of improving these conditions. On occasion Scott County personnel may be rendered unavailable due to the requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. Except for "emergencies" as determined by the County Engineer's professional judgment, or his/her designee acting in his/her absence, on a case by case basis, all clearance of snow and ice, sanding, salting, and other winter maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted and available for this service. The entire width of that portion of the road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice compacted snow and ice, or frost. The snow cleared from the part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right-of-way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion of the roadway to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired.

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The snow removed from intersections will be piled in its corners in piles of unequal height. The line of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The county shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed in the roadway or shoulders by others, (i.e. private property owners). Motorists shall drive their vehicles during snow and ice conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially with respect to the condition of the roadway surface, and conditions of reduced or impaired visibility. They are further advised to reduce their speed by at least 25 miles per hour below that legally permitted or advised under normal conditions. In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, motorist shall exercise watchfulness and caution; their speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour. During these conditions, no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed that would warn of impaired sight distances, impaired visibility at intersections, road blockades, one-lane conditions, road surfaces that are slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be for prevailing conditions.

SEC. 14-3. SEQUENCE OF SERVICE

In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of Scott County's Secondary Road System during the winter months, the Snow Removal and Winter Maintenance Plan for Scott County Roads shall be utilized as provided for in this Section of this ordinance. This plan which was originally adopted by the Board of Supervisors in November, 1979 and has been updated annually shall be adopted by reference and approved by Resolution of the Board. In addition to this plan the County Engineer or his/her designee shall be authorized to make this determination when drifting, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorm conditions require that the snow removal equipment be removed from service pending more favorable conditions.

In all cases of administering this ordinance and the noted snow removal plan of the County Engineers professional judgment shall prevail unless it is clearly erroneous. It should be further noted that the county equipment will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., and that equipment may be called off the road if snow and/or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions based on the professional judgment of the County Engineer or his delegated representative.

The County will not clear snow from private roads or driveways. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private roads and driveway entrances. Snow removed from private roads and driveways shall not be deposited or placed on the roadway or shoulders.

There is no definite time limit after a snowstorm in which roads will be cleared of snow and ice on either the paved or unpaved system. The noted snow removal plan is simply a sequence of events and priorities to implement snow and ice removal on Scott County roads in an organized efficient manner.

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SEC. 14-4. LIMITATION OF SERVICE

The policy and level of service provided for in this ordinance and in the noted snow removal plan shall not include the performance of the following services:

- A. Sanding, salting or placing other abrasives upon roadways and bridges that are slick, slippery and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- B. Sanding, salting or placing other abrasives upon paved roads due to freezing precipitation that occurs outside the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., unless judged absolutely essential.
- C. Placing additional warning devices or regulator signs warning of impaired sight distances, impaired visibility at intersections, road blockages, one lane conditions, slick or slippery road surfaces or advisory speeds.
- D. Sanding, salting, or placing abrasive upon any road, except for paved roads. If, in the opinion of the County Engineer, or his/her designee, an "emergency" exists and ice has built up on hills and intersections on the gravel system that slope down to another road so as to become dangerous, abrasive materials may be applied at these locations as crew and equipment availability allows and only as a last resort. This condition will not, under any circumstances, take a higher priority than placing of abrasive material on the paved road system and will only be done after the paved roads are cleared of ice and snow. Abrasive material will also only be placed after other mechanical means have been tried and failed, such as scraping with motorgraders.

SEC. 14-5. EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

The County will respond to all verified emergency conditions either during or after a snowstorm as noted in Scott County's snow removal plan. An emergency condition is defined as one where loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred, where medical treatment is essential, or where extensive loss of property is imminent.

The provisions of this ordinance may be suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the state disaster plan, or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the county disaster plan. If such occurs, the county personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors who will be responsible for emergency actions.