

RESOLUTION 55-13
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WINTER SNOW AND ICE CONTROL OBJECTIVES

WHEREAS, Mason County Public Works (MCPW) provides maintenance to the approximately 618 miles of Mason County's road system;

WHEREAS, it is the goal of MCPW to maintain these roads in as safe a condition as possible during the winter months, depending on weather conditions, available budget, manpower and equipment;

WHEREAS, MCPW has established winter maintenance guidelines to place priorities for snow and ice control and on October 22, 2013 the Mason County Board of Commissioners find these guidelines to be acceptable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby adopts the MCPW snow and ice control activities:

I. OBJECTIVES

Snow and ice control operations is the departments number one maintenance priority during the winter months. Typical hours of operation for snow and ice control are from the hours of 4:00 AM to 9:00 PM, allowing a focus on the morning and evening commuter travel times. Local access roads will be addressed only during normal working hours, unless circumstances require Public Works staff to evaluate.

Due to the nature of winter weather conditions, it is an unrealistic expectation to have a roadway completely and immediately clear from snow or ice. MCPW goal is to maintain roads in a passable driving condition for vehicles that are properly equipped for winter driving conditions. Motorists are expected to modify their driving practices in accordance with road conditions. More information on winter driving can be found at the Washington State Patrol website; www.wsp.wa.gov or the Washington State Department of Transportation website; <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov>.

Due to our geographic location, Mason County can have several "micro-climates" during winter events, so localized conditions can vary drastically from one area to another.

II. LEVEL OF SERVICE

Type of Treatment:

Asphalt roads may be treated with sand, salt, and liquid de-icer at intersections, bridges, curves, and hills. Snow plowing will generally not commence until snow has reached a 2" depth, and is expected to continue accumulating. Gravel roads will be plowed with a motor grader. During extreme weather conditions, the county may close roadways, or cease maintenance operations, until conditions improve.

Priority of Treatment:

In the implementation of the snow and ice removal of the county roads, Public Works officials shall select the actual sequence of roads in each district for efficient treatment in the following order:

- Requested emergency vehicle routes that are responding to emergency calls
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Local Access Roads

The county's level of service will be a plowed and/or treated lane of travel in each direction. Once this level of service has been met, lower priority roads will be addressed.

III. OTHER ISSUES

Damage:

Mail Boxes – MCPW will repair, or replace only those mailboxes damaged due to direct contact with county equipment. Any replacement of mailboxes will consist of a generic, standard size metal mailbox mounted on a 4" wooden post. Property owners who have an ornamental or decorative mailbox in the county easement do so at their own risk.

Driveways – MCPW assumes no responsibility for the removal of snow deposited in driveways as a result of snow plowing. It is not practical to change the plow blade angle to avoid driveways. A snow berm may be deposited both during the initial plowing phase, and again during widening and mop up operations. Exact times cannot be provided on when individual roads will be plowed.

Turf/Landscaping – Landscaping and lawns, including but not limited to; shrubs, trees, inanimate objects, etc. installed by a property owner within the county easement will be the responsibility of the owner and the owner assumes all risk of damage to such items. Furthermore, the County cannot reasonably control the drift or discharge of snow and/or shoulder materials from the snowplow into ditches and lawns. The County will not be responsible for the removal/repair of any shrubs, yard ornamentation, and turf or landscaping, should materials inadvertently cast into adjacent lawn areas by the plow.

Stranded/Blocking Vehicles – Employees will try to assist the occupants of a stalled or stranded vehicle by contacting MACE-Com by radio. County equipment should not be used to push or pull a privately owned vehicle unless specifically authorized by the Director and/or his/her designee.

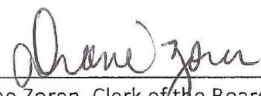
ADOPTED this 22 day of October 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Randy Neatherlin, Chair

ATTEST:




Diane Zoren, Clerk of the Board



Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Tim Whitehead, Chief Deputy
Prosecuting Attorney



Terri Jeffreys, Commissioner