

# VILLAGE OF LAKE HALLIE SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Effective date: January 6, 2020

Issued by: Village of Lake Hallie Village Board

Number of pages: 4

Special:

Last reviewed: January 6, 2020

## 1. Introduction.

The Village of Lake Hallie believes that it is in the best interest of residents in the Village to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on village streets. Reasonable ice and snow control are necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The Village will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The Village will use village employees and equipment to provide this service.

The Village of Lake Hallie will strive to maintain safe conditions for drivers observing winter driving conditions. However, this is not an absolute "bare pavement" policy.

It must be recognized that, although this policy sets general guidelines to be followed, each storm has its own character with variable conditions. The policy must remain flexible and take into consideration these variables.

The Public Works Department uses 4 trucks and 1-wheel loader for snow removal on the Village's approximately 90 miles of roads, streets, and 42 cul-de-sacs. A normal snow event of 8" or less will take crews approximately 8-10 hours to clear all roads and cul-de-sacs. A major snow event of 8" or more means the crews will work until all roads are plowed.

Public Works employees can work 16 hours with 8 hours rest, but during snow emergency they can work up to 18 hours and must have 8 hours rest prior to returning.

## 2. Determination of need for snow and ice control procedures.

The on-call personnel shall generally keep themselves apprised of changing weather conditions. However, the Village Public Works relies on the observations of Lake Hallie Police Department personnel and various other sources to alert them to road conditions.

The on-call personnel will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. Total snow accumulation of approximately 3 inches or more; If we receive several smaller snow falls over a period of days, a residential plowing maybe initiated.
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel; and
- D. Time of snow in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Generally, operations will continue until all roads are passable. Widening and cleanup operations may continue immediately or on the following work day depending on conditions and circumstances. Safety of the plow operators and the public is important. Therefore, snow plowing/removal operations maybe be terminated after a period of time to allow personnel adequate rest. There may be instances where this is not possible depending on storm conditions and other circumstances. Operations may also be suspended during times of limited visibility, significant winds or severe cold for employee safety and equipment preservation. Any decision to suspend operations shall be made by on call personnel based on the conditions of the storm. The village will provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services on an “as-needed” basis during the major snow or ice storm.

- 3. Snow Emergency Declaration:** When Public Works employees feel weather conditions justify a “Snow Emergency” being declared they will contact a supervisor with the Village Police Department with their concern. If it is agreed upon, the Police Department will declare a “Snow Emergency” and notify local media sources. Vehicles parked on or along any road or highway will be given two hours to be removed, prior to being ticketed and towed.

- 4. How snow will be plowed.**

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. Generally, the center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. The discharge shall go onto the shoulder of the road.

- 5. Snow removal.**

Responsible village personnel will determine when snow will be removed with the end loader in an area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on road shoulder for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snowplowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability.

- 6. Priorities and schedule for which streets will be plowed.**

The Village of Lake Hallie maintains approximately 90 miles of roads and 42 Cul-de-sacs. The Village has classified village streets based on function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of community. Routes will be plowed in the most cost effective and timely manner. Those streets classified as priority #1 will be plowed first. These are high volume routes which connect major sections of the village and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services.

Priority #2 streets are those streets providing access to schools and commercial businesses.

Where steep hills or other safety concerns exist, a street may be advanced to higher priority for plowing. For operating efficiency some lower priority streets may be done when equipment is in the area rather than returning later. This will vary by storm severity.

Priority #3 streets are low volume residential streets.

**7. Bike Trail**

There are times the Bike Trails in Village may be plowed before some streets. This depends upon availability of equipment and manpower as well as the Villages agreement with the state that requires us to maintain the Bike Trails including snow removal in a timely manner.

**8. Weather conditions.**

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of employees or equipment, and operations are effective. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include but are not limited to: severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility and rapid accumulations of snow and/or ice.

**9. Use of sand, salt or salt and sand mixture**

The Village will use a salt and sand mixture when there is a hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The village is concerned about cost and the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason. Even after reasonable care, snow and ice may still build up.

**10. Emergency situations.**

For emergency vehicles responding to situations (fire, medical, police) within the village, or Fire Department/Police Department jurisdiction, necessary employees and equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible

**11. Damage.**

Only legal properties allowed by village ordinance to be adjacent to streets and damaged by actual contact with village equipment will be considered for repair or replacement at village expense. Damage to trees, shrubbery and other landscaping will not be considered for compensation.

**12. Driveways.**

One of the most frequent problems in plowing snow from public streets is snow deposited in driveways. The operators make every attempt to minimize the amount of snow deposited in driveways; however due to the inherent design of plow equipment the amount can still be significant. Due to established policies, village personnel do not provide driveway cleaning. Possible exemptions are at the discretion of on call personnel for fire or medical emergency situation.

**13. Mailboxes.**

Where mailboxes are placed adjacent to the street it shall be the policy of the village plow as close as practical to the shoulder to allow for passage of traffic and mail delivery. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to keep piles of snow away from the mailboxes so mail can be delivered. If the mailbox cannot be seen it could possibly be damaged.

**14. State of Wisconsin/Chippewa County Plowing.**

Certain County and State Highways; such as Cty P, Cty OO, and STH-29 and STH-53 and the Village owned Business 53, within the village are maintained by Chippewa County and are subject to other maintenance policies.

**15. Parking.**

The Village of Lake Hallie has adopted various ordinances for parking restrictions, which are modified periodically.

**16. Complaints.**

Complaints regarding snow and ice control or damage shall be taken by the Public Works Department during normal business hours Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm Friday 8:00am-Noon at 715-726-2660 ext. 1. Complaints involving access to property or problems requiring immediate attention shall be handled on a priority basis. Response time may vary for any complaint. It should be understood that complaint responses are to ensure that the provisions of this policy have been fulfilled and that all residents of the Village have been treated uniformly.

**17. What you can do**

1. Minimize travel during inclement weather.
2. Park your vehicle off-street in your driveway or garage.
3. Village workers suggest that residents wait to shovel until snow plowing is finished on your road. Crews can make 2 to 3 passes on each side of the street to clear it.
4. If you have fire hydrant in front of your home or business, please clear the snow around it.
5. Businesses and multi-dwelling residences are asked to be aware of the location of snow pile placement so as not to create a traffic hazard.
6. Please make safety a priority. Be patient...allow yourself extra travel time. Drive with caution and appropriate to the weather conditions.