

# **SNOW AND ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS**

## **GRAND ISLAND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

It's the winter season again. During this time, the Town of Grand Island snow plow and operators work hard and with great care to make roads safe. No matter how careful drivers are, snow and ice control operations may cause inconvenience to you. At times, it may also cause property damage. Here are some questions you might have about snow removal on streets and sidewalks.

### **1. How does the Town decide which streets get plowed first?**

Town of Grand Island Highway Department plows and/or salts 78.32 miles of local roads along with 35.81 miles of county owned roads. Typically the salt trucks go out when the roads are either icy or lightly snow covered. When the snowfall accumulates to 2 inches or more the crews switch to a plow event. Each of our 7 plow trucks have a carefully mapped out plow route specifically designed to get the main roads and subdivision streets cleared of snow as safely and efficiently as possible. All of our plow routes are designed for one complete pass through each route to take approximately 4 hours depending on traffic density. During an especially heavy snowfall event, the main roads take precedence over subdivision streets until the snow fall subsides to normal levels.

### **2. Why do the Town snow plows push snow into my driveway and who is responsible for clearing it?**

Because of normal snow plowing operations, snow may be placed in your driveway unavoidably. Plows are angled to the right for plowing from the centerline of the street to the curb. For this reason, a certain amount of snow will be deposited in driveways. Snow placed in driveways or on sidewalks by the town while snow plowing is the residents and owners responsibility to remove.

### **3. I just shoveled my sidewalk. Why did the town snow plow push snow on it?**

Some areas of the town have narrow public rights of way. When plowing, the snow may end up on the sidewalk or driveway apron you just shoveled. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes you.

If your schedule permits, you may want to wait and clear your sidewalk and driveway apron after town plows have passed through your street. If it is a significant snowfall, the snowplows will probably be back. Streets are typically opened with one pass through, so that streets can be made passable for drivers as soon as possible. Snowplows may return to open the street curb-to-curb. This is done to clear areas for on-street parking, where it is permitted, and to allow melting snow to drain into catch basins. We regret that you may find some of this snow on your recently shoveled sidewalk/driveway apron and you have to shovel it again.

### **4. Why is the snow plow operator driving so fast considering the road conditions?**

It might appear at times that the snow plow operator is driving too fast for road conditions. While operators drive safe and legal speeds, at times they need to "roll" the snow to remove it from the road. A sufficient speed needs to be maintained by the driver to do this and clear the street.

### **5. Can snow from my driveway be pushed across the street?**

Snow may not be pushed into or across the street from private property, according to state ordinance. Please keep this in mind when clearing your driveway. If you hire a private service to clear your driveway, let the contractor know.

### **6. When does my sidewalk need to be cleared and whose responsibility is it?**

Residents and owners are reminded to remove snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall and to use salt or another abrasive on sidewalk ice within 12 hours after ice forms.

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**7. Who do I contact if a town snow plow hits my mailbox?**

Should your mailbox get struck by the town during snow plowing, contact the Highway Department at 773-9632. The Highway Department will review the policy with you and determine the responsibility of replacement. The town uses a metal post and a standard design metal mail box for replacement. Sorry, but the town will not repair or replace decorative mailboxes and decorative posts. Non-standard mailboxes and enclosures placed in the public right of way are at the owner's risk and responsibility.

**8. What if landscaping or irrigation in the right-of-way is damaged?**

Remember not to landscape with rocks, bricks, timbers, shrubs and other items in the right of way. Snow plows could cause damage and we do not repair or replace landscape materials. Some residents have irrigation in the right of way. This is done at the owner's risk and responsibility. Keep any irrigation heads away from the edges of the sidewalk.

**9. Who do I contact if a town snow plow damages my lawn?**

If a town snow plow causes lawn damage, please contact the Highway Department at 773-9632. You will be placed on a list for spring clean-up once all the snow is melted. Sod and grass damage is restored by town crews with top soil and grass seed.

The Town of Grand Island Highway Department would like to thank you for your cooperation and understanding during the winter season. By working together, we can make the roads and sidewalks safe for all.

JT Tomkins  
Superintendent Highways

Dick Crawford  
Deputy Highway Superintendent

If you have any questions: Contact the Highway Department at - **773-9632**