



# TOWN OF ORANGE

## Snow and Ice Policy



**October, 2019**

### Introduction

The Town of Orange will conduct reasonable snow and ice control when necessary for routine travel and emergency services. In providing this service, the Town will keep in mind safety, budget, available personnel, and environmental concerns. The Town will use Town employees, sub-contractors, and equipment, both Town owned and sub-contracted, to provide these services. The Town will work to provide reasonably safe road conditions during times of inclement weather. Travelers should use safe judgment and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather.

### When will snow and ice operations begin?

The Town of Orange Highway Superintendent, Working Foreman, or their designee will make the decision when to begin snow and ice operations. The guidelines for decision will be:

- A. When precipitation first starts or just prior to that, salt, sand, and chemicals will be applied.
- B. With snow accumulation of 2 inches or more, plowing operations will begin, considering
  - a. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel
  - b. Icy conditions that seriously affect travel
  - c. Time of snow fall in relationship to heavy use of streets

### How snow plowing operations will function

Snow plowing operations will function to best keep Town owned streets, roads, parking lots, and sidewalks open, and to minimize delay and obstructions to traffic. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. All snow will be removed left to right. All snow will be discharged to the shoulder of the road. All snow plowing operators will plow with the flow of traffic. Deicing material may be used numerous times to maintain a working “brine” throughout snowplowing operations. All Town employees engaged in snow and ice operations will be expected to work an eight-hour shift. Some events will require personnel

to work in excess of their eight-hour shift. In the event of “long duration” snow and ice events, the Town reserves the right to suspend snow and ice operations to allow Town employees and subcontractors to rest and to allow meals. All employees and subcontractors will be allowed regular breaks throughout the duration of snow and ice events. The Town will have at least 1 employee on shift during the duration of any snow and ice event. The Superintendent of Highway or their designee will make the decision of when to begin, suspend, and end snow and ice events.

## **Priorities and schedule of Town owned roadways and parking lots**

The Town of Orange has classified Town streets, roads, parking lots, and sidewalks based on function, traffic volume, and importance to the community. Routes will be plowed in the timeliest and most cost-effective manner. All major roadways will be plowed first. These are roadways with high volume traffic, and connectors to major sections of Town. They also provide access to emergency fire, police, and EMS services. The secondary streets are the second priority in snow plowing operations. Parking lots and Town owned sidewalks will be done last. All efforts will be made to clear all roadways, lots, and sidewalks in a timely fashion.

## **Removal of snow from Streets, Roads, Parking Lots, and Sidewalks**

The Town of Orange will remove snow that has built up along Town owned streets, roads, parking lots, and sidewalks when the buildup becomes problematic to future snow removal operations, safety, and businesses. The Highway Department will perform snow removal in the most efficient and safe manner and to limit the impact on business hours and traffic. These operations may be conducted during night-time hours. Residents may be subject to unusual traffic patterns and noise from snow removal equipment. The Highway Department will make a best effort to limit the closures of any street, road, or sidewalk during snow removal operations.

## **Weather conditions**

All snow and ice operations will be conducted only when conditions do not endanger the safety of employees, contractors, and equipment. Operations will be conducted when the method of operation is effective for the conditions. Factors that may delay snow and ice operations include limited visibility, severe winds and temperatures, and rapid accumulations of snow and ice.

## **Salt, sand, and deicing chemicals**

Salt, sand, and deicing chemicals will be used by the Town when hazardous and slippery conditions are present. The Town of Orange is concerned about the effects of deicing materials on the environment, and will use all materials in a responsible manner and quantity.

These materials may be used multiple times throughout a weather event to maintain the levels of ice or slippery conditions. The Town of Orange will treat all Town owned streets, roads, parking lots, and sidewalks in a timely and safe fashion, to the best of its ability. All streets and roadways are priority, while parking lots come second, and sidewalks last. Pretreating operations will be performed at the start of the weather event.

## **Emergency situations**

Snow and ice operations will be altered in the event of an emergency within the Town. The necessary employees and equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible to accommodate the situation. Examples are emergencies involving the police, fire, and EMS services. Operations may extend onto private roadways or property under emergency operations.

## **Snow and ice operations involving private property**

No snow and ice operations will be performed on private roadways or property unless directed by the Board of Selectman, Town Administrator, or emergency services.

## **Damage to private property**

Properly installed properties that are located adjacent to roadways and that are allowed by Town by-laws, that are damaged by Town owned or contracted equipment, will be considered for repair or replacement at the expense of the Town (example mail boxes, legally parked vehicles). Damage to trees, shrubbery, and other landscaping or property will not be considered for repair or reimbursement, unless damaged in an unreasonable manner (pushing snow too far off the roadway, driver error, etc.).

## **Towing or removal of vehicles**

The Town of Orange is not responsible for moving privately owned vehicles. Vehicles that are stuck or unable to travel will not be towed or “pulled out” by a Town owned or contracted vehicle or equipment. Any vehicle that is left unattended or parked in an emergency vehicle turn around may be towed by a professional towing company at the owner’s expense. The police department will be notified and the officer on duty will make the decision.