

**COUNTY OF TRINITY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY #TD93-01

Approved By The Board Of Supervisors

The County Department of Transportation revenues continue to be marginal for operations and maintenance activities. In an effort to provide the best overall benefit to local residents and the traveling public with the limited funding available, we must make a concerted effort to reduce overtime.

During the winter months, this will specifically relate to snow removal on county roads between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Also, we do not intend to plow roads with less than **two (2)** inches of accumulated snow during overtime hours on normal work days or weekends. Snow accumulation during these times may necessitate the use of traction devices by the road users. During snowstorms, residents should carry appropriate traction devices and be at their destination by 6:00 p.m.

We will respond to all legitimate emergencies (threat to life, health or property). In an emergency contact the Sheriff's office by dialing 911 who will then contact the County Transportation employees in the area.

Individuals or agencies may be billed for Transportation Department assistance on emergencies when occurring outside our normal winter maintenance obligations or responsibilities.

The Trinity County Department of Transportation has adopted the following policy regarding snow removal on County maintained roadways.

- (1) Snow removal and roadway sanding operations in each district will be conducted on County roadways generally in accordance with the following priority ratings.

<u>Route Type / Traffic Type</u>	<u>Priority Rating</u>
Arterials (links Towns and Communities to State Highways)	1
Major Collectors	1
*Minor Collectors and School Bus Routes	2
*Local County Roads serving access to other County Roads	3
Local County Roads not listed above	4
County Roads designated "Not Winter Maintained"	5

*Each maintenance district has situations unique to its area and the county reserves the right to modify the priority rating or their sequence on priority ratings to be more efficient in their winter maintenance operations.

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It is general practice that during a storm event, most maintenance districts work concurrently on Priority #1 and #2 roads and, in some instances, Priority 3 roads in their respective districts.

Priority #1 Roads

These roads will be given the greatest attention. County crews will be allowed to work overtime in attempts to keep these roads open.

Priority #2 Roads

County crews are authorized to work overtime to keep these roads open during 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Priority #3 Roads

During continued storm events, Priority #1 and #2 roads will be maintained open, prior to proceeding on with Priority #3 roads. Overtime work may be authorized to open these roads. Consideration must be given to these roads during long-term storm events to prevent large snow accumulations.

Priority #4 Roads

These roads will not be plowed until all other roads are cleared, berms pushed back in preparation for additional storms, and drainages open. The Transportation Department does not intend to authorize overtime.

Priority #5 Roads

These roads will not be plowed during winter months with the exception of emergencies that are a threat to life or health.

Other Comments

County employee overtime will not be authorized to plow non-County road entrances.

To provide the most service to the public, snow plowing will normally occur between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Only a few selected key roads and community areas will be maintained during off-time hours. Lewiston road will be the primary maintained access route for the Lewiston community during off-time hours.

We do not intend to plow County roads with less than two (2) inches of snow accumulation during overtime hours.

Sanding of roads will normally only be done on steep hills and/or sharp curves after storms.

We will not normally be sanding during storms, and we will not be sanding on relatively flat areas or gentle curves.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- A) Plan ahead, be prepared, and don't travel if you don't have to. Carry a survival kit consisting of blanket(s) or sleeping bag, water, and a flashlight in case of vehicle breakdown or becoming stuck in the snow. If you must travel, leave earlier so you are not rushed to an appointment which will allow you to drive at a slower safer speed.
- B) Please caution your children not to play in the streets or on the snow berms, this is very dangerous. Explain to your children that drivers may not see them or be able to stop in time to avoid hitting them.
- C) Make sure that your snow tires are in good condition. To be legal SNOW TIRES must have a minimum of 6/32 inch (3/16") of tread. Refer to Section 27465 Motor Vehicle Code. Check your tires for your safety as this is about 1/2 of new tread depth on many tires, and is approximately twice the minimum depth for street legal tires. Your tires may be legal in dry conditions, but no longer qualify as snow tires.
- D) Always carry approved traction devices (chains/cables) and learn how to install them. Practice installing them a few times in dry weather.
- E) It is not uncommon for a County road to become impassable for several days during major storm events. If you do not have more than one route to get to and from your residence during winter months, then you should store enough food, water, fuel for a generator if you have one and other provisions to last at least 7 days.

WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO:

- A) Do not park vehicles on roadways or along the edge of roadways. Vehicles blocking snow removal operations may be towed away at owner's expense. Park a minimum of five (5) feet off the roadway on your property.
- B) Do not clear your driveway until after your road has been plowed. This will reduce the amount of snow that the plow leaves as it passes your driveway.
- C) Do not shovel or put snow from driveways in the roadway as this creates a hazard for other drivers, a liability for you, and is illegal.
- D) Do not allow children and pets to play on roadways.
- E) Snow plows make frequent stops and backup maneuvers, do not drive your car up behind a snow plow as the driver may be unable to see you and inadvertently back into your car. If you are behind a plow that stops, stop your vehicle in such a way that your car looks into the driver's outside rearview mirror and please give them extra room.

Thank you for your cooperation, and let's have another safe winter. Please remember, we need your help.

DRIVE TO STAY ALIVE

Trinity County Department of Transportation

