

Town of Northumberland

2 State Street, Groveton, NH 03582



WINTER OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

Article I. Policy

It is the goal and intent of the Town of Northumberland to provide timely, efficient and cost-effective winter maintenance, snow removal, and ice control on the roadways of the municipality for the safety and benefit of the Town's/City's residents and the general motoring public.

Article II. Procedure

The objective stated above will be achieved by implementation and execution of the guidelines outlined in Article IV. Due to the many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm and/or weather event may require slightly different effort and/or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

Article III. Services and Limitations

It is not possible to maintain a black snow and ice-free road or sidewalk during a storm. It is the intention of the Town to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses, and municipal facilities during winter storms. It will be our guideline to start to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulation of two inches of snowfall. The Road Agent may, at their discretion, elect to not remove snow until greater or lesser accumulations.

Sidewalk snow clearance will be conducted as possible during winter storms during the day and evening. Personnel availability and the need to maintain safe roadways will take priority, although the Town will attempt to keep sidewalks clear in order for children to get to and from school.

Direction of all winter maintenance activities for the Town of Northumberland is vested with the Road Agent or their designee with the following exceptions. The police officer on duty or the Town Manager may call the Road Agent in to work or, if the Road Agent is unavailable, the highway department should road conditions meet the threshold during the night or on weekends.

Article IV. Procedures

- A. The Highway Department will use the resources of the department as needed to address snow emergencies.
- B. The Town has two primary routes for its plow trucks and a route followed by the one-ton plow.
- C. The Town will utilize the available manpower
- D. The Town uses two-way radios to communicate with each other and with the Lancaster DOT Dispatch.
- E. The elementary school playground and the alley behind the high school are areas that the Town is responsible for clearing out of snow on school days.
- F. Per the Town's Parking, there is a winter parking ban in effect from November 1, to April 1, for the hours of midnight to seven AM.

- G. The Town has 22 miles of road from which to remove snow and control ice. Since the Town has two plow trucks and a one-ton to keep the streets cleared, the Highway Department has to assign priorities for winter maintenance route activity in order to maximize the effectiveness of their efforts for the motoring public.
1. The "Hill" section of Town and the Northumberland Village area will be given first priority. Sidewalks will also be given first priority status on school days as many children walk to school.
 2. The parking lots around the schools will be given priority on school days, but will be last on the priority list if no major events are scheduled.
 3. The roads will be done before any municipal lots and the transfer station is cleared.
 4. Fire hydrants will be cleared once the storm ends.
- H. The Town does not maintain any Class VI Roads, which include the Bag Hill Road and the Spaulding Hill Road.
- I. The municipality is not held responsible for damage to private property that is located within the public right of way. This extends in many cases 10 to 20 feet out from the pavement. The Town of Northumberland may choose to repair lawns and fix mailboxes that have been damaged by snowplows, but is under no obligation to repair other structures within the right-of-way.
- J. As determined by the Road Agent, the snow banks resulting from the previous accumulations shall be pushed back, or shelved, using the plow and wing on the trucks to make space for future snowstorms. Snow shall be removed from the center of the Groveton Village area at night. All other streets, parking lots, and access areas shall be cleared of snow piles during the day.
- K. Sidewalks shall be cleared starting with State Street, Main Street, and Church Street and progressing to the side streets. Sidewalks shall be treated only with sand.

Article V. Execution

The guideline outlined above is intended to serve as the normal operating procedures for winter maintenance, snow removal, and/or ice control for the Town of Northumberland. The policy may be affected by the following situations, which would delay or prevent the implementation of the guideline in its full effect:

- Equipment Breakdown
- Snow Accumulation in Excess of 1" Per Hour
- Freezing Rain or Other Icing Conditions
- Traffic Congestion
- Emergencies
- Personnel Illness / Injury

This guideline is adopted by the Board of Selectmen on January 12, 2004, following a public hearing and is effective on January 13, 2004.