

ISANTI COUNTY'S SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

The Department's general goal is to have all county roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped. Roads are prioritized by traffic volume and logical routing.

The County **does not** assure a completely bare road and will not normally sand/salt entire sections of roadway. The sanding/salting of intersections, hills and curves are the priority. Users of the system are reminded to exercise caution and to realize that the legal speed limit may not be reasonable in certain weather conditions

The County usually will not dispatch snow plows until the snowfall has stopped, with exceptions possible during periods of extended snowfall. Plows will generally be dispatched between 4:00 and 7:30 a.m., or when snow and drifting conditions allow reasonable accomplishments to be made. Operators duty shifts are generally limited to a maximum of 12 hours per day for safety reasons.

The plow operator's first job is to make the road passable with one lane in one direction plowed. Then plow the second lane to have one lane in each direction open; lanes are then widened to the edge of the shoulders and sanding/salting is done; clean-up of ice and slush are done as demands allow.

Snow plows will **not** be dispatched at night except for true emergency calls, such as assisting fire departments, or ambulance crews. Icing bridges or snow drifting on roads are an expected aspect of winter travel and generally not adequate justification to dispatch snow plow crews.

Mailboxes damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mailboxes that are properly built, located and installed in accordance with Minnesota Department of Transportation Standards and which were damaged by actual contact with county equipment will be repaired at county expense.

Residents are cautioned that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across any public roadway. Piles of snow left on or near the roadway can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snow plows.

These are general guidelines used by the Isanti County Highway Department. Each decision to mobilize, to keep the snow plow crews working, and to apply salt/sand is a judgment call based on the particular weather conditions, past experience, and the availability of resources at that particular time, and therefore may not adhere strictly to this general policy.