

JACKSON COUNTY SNOW ORDINANCE ORDINANCE NO. 127

An ordinance to establish the policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow and/or ice and maintenance of this county's secondary roads during the winter months.

Be it enacted by the Board of Supervisors of Jackson County, Iowa:

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish this County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow and/or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, specifically defined as November through April, as provided in section 668.10(2) (1995), Code of Iowa, and pursuant to the provisions of section 309.67, Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, and as contained in this County's secondary road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The clearing of roads at any cost under any circumstances, day or night, is not the County's policy.

Section 2: Level of Service

Clearance of snow and/or ice and maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of the County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and/or ice in compacted condition. This condition may be continuous or may be more concentrated on hills, valleys, curves and/or intersections. The County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose. On occasion, County personnel may be rendered unavailable due to the requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. Except for emergencies, determined by the County Engineer's professional judgment or designee, all clearance of snow and/or ice, spreading of salt and sand and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service and as practical. The entire width of that portion of road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch or right-of-way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removal from intersections will be piled in unequal heights in the corners. The lines of sight, sight distance or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others. Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, reduced or impaired visibility and are advised to

reduce their speed at least 25 mph below the legally permitted speed. In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by motorists and their speed should not exceed 10 mph. During these conditions no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed advising of impaired sight distance, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, slick or slippery road surfaces or what the advised speed should be.

Section 3: Sequence of Service

In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the County's secondary road system during the winter months, the County Engineer shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this section of the ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved roads be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt roads. The County Engineer's professional judgment, or his/her designee, shall prevail, unless it is clearly erroneous.

Paved Routes

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible or practical.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. The truck mounted snowplows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and/or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer or his/her delegated representatives.
4. When required, due to drifting snow, motor graders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.
5. It is not the policy of the County to provide a "dry" pavement condition.
6. After roads have been plowed, as provided in this section, intersections, hills and curves may have salt, sand or other abrasives placed on them. There is no time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequence of clearance shall take place.

Unpaved Roads

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible and/or practical after a storm has passed.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. The truck mounted snowplows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and/or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working

conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer or his/her delegated representatives.

4. Snow will not be removed from roads designated as Level B or Level C.

Private Drives

The County will not clear snow from private drives. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private drives. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders.

There is no limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequences of clearance on paved or unpaved roads shall take place.

Section 4: Limitations of Service

Notwithstanding anything else stated in this ordinance, the policy and level of service provided for in this ordinance shall not include the following services:

1. Sanding, salting or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways that are slick, slippery or dangerous due to the formation of frost.
2. Sanding, salting or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing rain/precipitation that occurs outside the County's usual working hours.
3. Placing additional warning signs or regulatory signs advising of impaired sight distance, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, slick or slippery road surfaces or what advised speed should be.
4. Removing of sand, salt or other abrasives.

Section 5: Emergency Conditions

The level or sequence of service may be suspended during "Emergency" conditions. An "Emergency" condition shall be considered as one where loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred or where extensive loss of property is immanent. These conditions will be verified through the E911 dispatcher, sheriff's department, or Iowa State Patrol Office. The County may respond to all "Emergency" conditions either during or after a snowstorm or during or after normal working hours. Any person convicted of making a false report of an emergency or causing a false report to be made, shall be subject to a fine of not more that \$100.00.

The level or sequence of service shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State Disaster Plan, or the Chairperson of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the County Disaster Plan. If such occurs, the County personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairperson of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.

Section 6: Repealer

All ordinances and resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 7: Severability Clause

If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 8: When Effective

This ordinance shall be in effect immediately after its final passage and publication as provided by law.