

STANDARD OPERATING POLICY
Merrimack, New Hampshire

Date: 10/13/2022

Policy: Winter Maintenance and Salt Use Policy

Governing Laws: RSA 231:92-a, RSA 507-B:2-b; *Chapter 183 Vehicles and Traffic, Article III - Parking Restrictions; Chapter Streets and Sidewalks 169:4 Snow Obstruction on Streets*

Approval Date: 10/13/2022

Next Review Date:

OBJECTIVE: It is the goal and intent of the Town of Merrimack to provide efficient, environmentally responsible and cost-effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the roadways, sidewalks and municipal parking lots of the municipality for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents, businesses and the general public.

PROCEDURE: The objective stated above will be achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures and tasks outlined in the Town of Merrimack's Winter Maintenance and Salt Use Procedures. Due to the many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm and/or weather event may require different effort and/or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

LEVEL OF SERVICE: It is not possible to maintain snow and ice-free roads or sidewalks during a storm. It is the intention of the Town to utilize its best efforts, within the means available, to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during and after winter storms.

Notwithstanding with any other provisions of this policy, snow removal or treatment operations may be suspended at any time when continuing operations would pose a hazard to persons or property.

Pre-treatment and ice control may be addressed prior to the actual storm beginning, during the actual storm as seen effective, and following the storm. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and consequently may not be applied until it is warmer.

It is the Town's policy to start to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulations of (2) two-inches of snowfall. Removal of snow shall always be by mechanical means when practical before implementing chemical use. The Operations Manager may, at his or her discretion based upon weather information reports, elect to not remove snow until greater or lesser accumulations, dependent on time of year and changing weather conditions before, during and after a storm.

Staffing for winter storms will be determined by the Operations Manager utilizing available information provided by contracted weather forecasting service, road weather information systems (RWIS) and any other available information. During off hours, nights and weekends, the Merrimack Police Department shall notify the on-call Public Works Highway Foreman that road conditions warrant snow removal or ice control response.

Sidewalk snow clearance will be conducted as soon as practical after winter storms. Equipment and personnel availability and the need to maintain safe roadways will take priority.

LOW SALT OR SALT FREE AREAS: The Town of Merrimack has established a list of roadways or portions of roadways as "low salt or No Salt" areas to assist in protecting drinking water resources. In the event of extreme icing or winter conditions, the Town may, at its discretion, decide it is in the best interest for public safety to salt roadways. Gravel roads will not be treated with salt at any time during winter maintenance.

No Salt Route	Gravel Roads Subdivision Roads within the Wellhead Protection Area
Limited Salt Route	Collector/Arterial Roads within the Wellhead Protection Area Subdivision Roads without Access to Public Water
Salt Route	All Other Roads

No salt routes may be treated with aggregates, abrasives or non-chloride based chemicals.

Limited salt routes may be treated with aggregates, abrasives, non-chloride based chemicals, or chloride based chemicals at an application rate up to 50% of normal application rates.

Salt routes may be treated with aggregates, abrasives, non-chloride based chemicals, or chloride based chemicals per normal application rates.

COMMAND: Direction of all winter maintenance activities for the Town of Merrimack is vested with the Public Works Director or his/her designee.

EXECUTION: The policy outlined above is intended to inform the standard operating procedures for winter maintenance, snow removal and/or ice control for the Town of Merrimack. One or more of the following, which may delay or prevent the implementation of this policy, may affect all or any part of this Policy:

- Equipment Breakdown or availability
- Snow Accumulation in Excess of 1" Per Hour
- Extreme weather conditions; Freezing Rain, Icing, low temperatures, windy conditions
- Traffic Congestion

- Emergencies
- Personnel illness or employee shortages
- Right-Of-Way Obstructions
- Other events beyond the reasonable control of the Town

MAILBOXES: Occasionally, mailboxes are damaged during snow plowing operations, this damage is not intentional and in most cases is unavoidable. Reporting the damage to the Highway Division in a timely manner will ensure minimal mail delivery interruption as a temporary mailbox will be placed at the curb within a reasonable timeframe upon completion of the storm until the necessary repair or replacement can be completed.

The Town will only replace mailboxes if they had been previously installed to USPS standards and able to withstand the weight or lateral force of the snow rolling off a plow. Posts that are poorly installed, rotted or too weak to withstand winter weather are not the responsibility of the Town. The mailbox and/or post replacement is a standard size white or black box mailbox and/or a 4x4 pressure treated wood post (standard installation). If the property owner chooses, they may be reimbursed the cost of the standard installation towards the replacement of the mailbox and/or post. Should a difference of opinion between the property owner and the town occur regarding the repair or replacement of the mailbox and/or post, a claim will be submitted to the Town's insurance carrier for review and resolution.

DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY: The Town shall not be held liable for damages to private property that is located within the public right of way. (RSA 231:90 - 92-a)

In the event of personal property damage, the Town of Merrimack will only be responsible to repair or replace damaged property having been in actual contact with the snow removal equipment that is on private property and not within the public right-of-way. In the event that lawn damage occurs during plowing operations the Town will repair the damage in the spring. The Town will assume no responsibility for damage to underground irrigation systems, private lighting, trees, shrubs, fencing, or similar landscaping installed in the right-of-way during snow plowing or ice control operations.

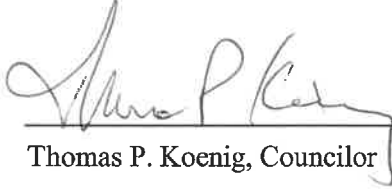
NOTICE: This policy may be posted in appropriate public places in the Town including the Town's website, www.merrimackng.gov, as determined by the Town Manager. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content as it describes the condition that one might encounter before, during and following a winter storm event.

ADOPTION: The Town of Merrimack has adopted the Winter Operations Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy effective October 13, 2022.

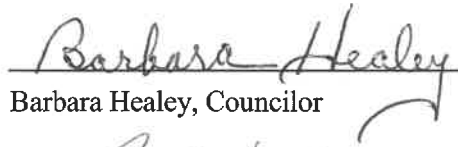


Finlay C. Rothhaus, Chairman

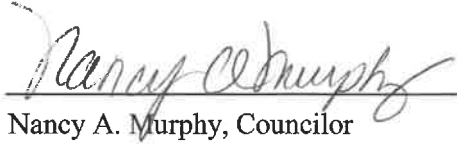
Nancy M. Harrington, Vice Chair



Thomas P. Koenig, Councilor



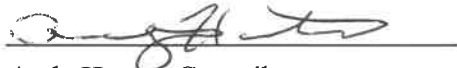
Barbara Healey, Councilor



Nancy A. Murphy, Councilor



Lon S. Woods, Councilor



Andy Hunter, Councilor