

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL SERVICE STANDARDS FOR ROADS AND SIDEWALKS

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EAST HANTS

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PURPOSE

To outline approved service standards for snow and ice removal from municipally-maintained roads and sidewalks.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to maintain roads and sidewalks to snow and ice removal standards that are attainable within the financial constraints of the approved budget.

DEFINITIONS

“Roads” refers to property that is between the road right-of-way boundaries that is designed for vehicular traffic and is on the list of municipally-maintained roads. These roads may or may not be owned by the Municipality dependent on provisions of service agreements between the Municipality (“MEH”) and the Province of Nova Scotia. The MEH website has a list of roads municipally-maintained.

“Sidewalks” refers to asphalt or concrete pathways laid down on property that is between the road right-of-way boundaries that is designed for pedestrian use.

STANDARDS

- Service standards are applicable between Nov 1 and April 30 each year. Service standards may not be followed in response to severe weather events outside of these dates.
- MEH is committed to keeping roads and sidewalks substantially clear of snow and ice within 12 hours of the end of a snow storm or winter ice event.
- For snow falls less than 5 cm road and sidewalk conditions are evaluated and salt and/or sand may be applied as deemed necessary.
- Under certain forecast weather conditions a decision may be made to apply salt prior to snow and/or ice accumulation.
- After a snow fall of 5 cm but less than 10 cm, salt and/or sand will be applied to paved roads and sidewalks. After a snowfall of 10 cm or more snow plowing will take place and salt and/or sand will be applied as deemed necessary. Snow removal is conducted as per NSTIR Snow and Ice Control Operations Manual Level 3 for paved roads and Level 4 for gravel roads.
- When wet snow, freezing rain and sudden freezes create heavy ice buildup on sidewalks and roads, sand will be applied to provide some traction.
- The Municipality only has responsibility for class J subdivision roads and no arterial or trunk roads. The class J roads are maintained in no particular order. Residents cannot count on a particular pattern or timing of maintenance that may have been experienced in the past.

During winters with heavy snowfall accumulations the Municipality may, depending on financial constraints, remove snow from curbs. Removing snow from curbs is not guaranteed and caution should be used. MEH should be contacted should these conditions arise and are considered to be impeding sight lines of drivers.

Achieving the service standards is subject to the common limitations as described below.

COMMON LIMITATIONS

- Mechanical equipment is used to remove snow and ice and MEH cannot guarantee that roads and sidewalks will be cleared to bare pavement.
- In the case of multiple snowfalls, significant blowing snow or snowfalls greater than 30 cm, the likelihood that service standards may not be achieved increases. When wet snow, freezing rain and sudden freezes create heavy ice buildup on sidewalks and roads, it will be difficult to achieve a safe condition in a timely fashion. Extreme caution is necessary when these conditions are encountered by the public.
- Moving snow from private property onto a road or sidewalk is not allowed. The Municipality may not be aware of snow put on a road or sidewalk by an individual or organization and the Municipality cannot be held responsible for clearing this snow within the service standards.
- MEH will not be responsible for removing snow that accumulates on private driveways as a result of road or sidewalk clearing.

PUBLIC'S RESPONSIBILITY

The public should expect the level of winter maintenance service as outlined. These service standards combined with the following precautions will help ensure the public's safety.

- Contact MEH regarding sidewalk conditions if an area is not clear or is icy.
- Wear appropriate footwear for winter conditions.
- Refrain from running on sidewalks, especially in winter conditions.
- Observe your surroundings and pay attention while walking. Hand held devices such as cell phones should not be used while walking.

NO WINTER MAINTENANCE PROVIDED

Snow and ice removal is not provided on:

- trails, or
- the controlled access portion of Park Road, Elmsdale Business Park.

Have a question or concern? If the answer to your question isn't here, call our Civil Engineering Technologist at 758-1800 x 103.

