

RESOLUTION # 2006-25

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
A SNOW REMOVAL AND SANDING POLICY FOR BOISE COUNTY**

**BOISE COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE
SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY**

Snow and Ice removal operations within Boise County are considered a vital part of the economic and social welfare of the county. Economics, however, require a balance between the level of service and the resources available to perform the service.

The philosophy governing Boise County Snow and Ice Removal is that all school bus routes on mainline county roads will be plowed and/or sanded in a timely manner so as to provide for the reasonable and safe accommodation of school bus traffic. Non school route mainline county roads will be opened in time for mail delivery and in time for citizens to travel in and from the county to work, and will be kept open late enough for citizens to return from work.

This policy is drafted in consideration of the following:

With very limited exceptions, Boise County will not provide snow and ice control during nighttime hours.

Given the considerable area of Boise County as well as the possible diverse weather conditions that exist here, it is expected that motorists operating vehicles within Boise County to have the necessary equipment on or in their vehicles for safe and reasonable operation during or in the event of inclement weather within the county. (At a minimum, this includes chains and/or adequate snow tires.)

All or parts of this policy may be affected by at least one or more of the following which will delay all or some of the services provided:

1. Equipment breakdown;
2. Weather so severe that crews cannot safely operate equipment;
3. Equipment rendered inadequate by the depth of snow or drifts;
4. Vehicles disabled due to snow depth,
5. Equipment maintenance, refueling, sand refilling, and crew breaks;
6. Unforeseen conditions and emergencies.



Specific Boise County snow and ice removal policies are as follows:

COUNTY ROAD PRIORITY:

All of Boise County's roads are categorized by the level of importance the particular road has within the entire county road network. The priority level, the type of road, and the snow and ice removal operations dedicated to each level are described below:

1st Priority (Yellow): All current county roads (not including subdivision roads) that are school bus routes. During school days, roads will be plowed and sanded to accommodate school bus schedules. Plowing and sanding operations will normally be carried out between the hours of 4:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. during school days. On days other than school days, plowing and sanding operations will be completed by 4:00 P.M.

2nd Priority (Red): All current county roads (not including subdivision roads) that are not already identified as 1st priority and are used as U.S. rural mail routes. During mail delivery days, routes will be opened in time to accommodate mail delivery schedules. Plowing and sanding operations will normally be carried out between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on mail delivery days. On days other than mail delivery days, plowing and sanding operations will be completed by 5:00 P.M.

3rd Priority (Blue): All current county roads (not including subdivision roads) which are not identified as 1st Priority, 2nd Priority, or 4th Priority. These are mainline county roads that will be plowed and/or sanded after the resource requirements for 1st and 2nd Priority roads are met. Plowing and sanding operations will normally be completed by 5:00 P.M.

4th Priority (Green): All other county roads which are not plowed or sanded during the winter months.

SANDING AND SNOW REMOVAL:

Normally, Boise County will spread sand only on steep hills and/or curves and intersections. Boise County does not spread sand continuously along roadways due to snow accumulation. Continuous sanding will be done only when, in the opinion of the Road and Bridge Superintendent, it is necessary in order to provide a reasonably safe driving surface for the average motorist.

Boise County does not sand roadways on weekends and/or holidays and does not perform after-hour snow and ice control.

The Boise County Road Department shall place its primary efforts on clearing travel ways and will not be responsible for the berm of snow left in driveways due to the clearing action of a snow blade.

The Road Department shall not remove snow from private driveways and/or private property except in situations declared a snow emergency by the Board of County Commissioners.

EMERGENCY ISSUES:

Boise County will take action to clear a county road upon a report of lane blockage, i.e.; snow slides, rock slides, and/or trees, that impairs access to or the ability to travel a roadway.

Boise County will not tow private or public vehicles which are stuck in the snow or have run off the road. Plow and sanding truck operations may provide assistance, at the discretion of the operator, if a safety issue exists or road blockage occurs.

PROPERTY ISSUES:

Boise County will not be responsible for damage to newspaper delivery boxes or to rural mailboxes as a result of snowplowing operations by the county. It is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that paper boxes and/or mailboxes are properly placed, marked, and sturdy enough to withstand snow ejected from a passing snowplow. In the event a mailbox is struck by county equipment, Boise County will evaluate the circumstances of the event causing damage and repair or replace the item provided that the mail box was properly located and marked.

Boise County snow plow operators will report incidents of residents or businesses pushing snow from private property onto or across Boise County's roadways. This activity endangers the traveling public as well as plow truck operators and is a violation of Idaho Code § 18-3907. The sheriff will, at his discretion, either issue a warning or citation at the request of the snow plow operator.

Boise County snow plow operators will report illegally parked vehicles to law enforcement for ticketing and/or towing.

SAFETY:

Boise County employees who operate motor vehicles and equipment while on duty should not operate vehicles or equipment for a continuous period of more than ten (10) hours, nor should their combined duty period exceed twelve (12) hours in any twenty-four (24) hour period, without at least eight (8) consecutive hours of rest. The twenty-four (24) hour period is defined as starting 0000 (midnight).

POLICY CHANGES:

Boise County reserves the right to make changes to this policy at its discretion.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Boise County Board of Commissioners in open session on the 13th day of March 2006, with an effective date upon passage.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Roger B. Jackson, Chairman





Fred H. Lawson, Commissioners



Paul A. Stutzman, Commissioners

Attest:

Rora A. Canody, Clerk to the Board