

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Policy:

It is the goal and intent of the Town of Atkinson to provide timely, efficient and cost effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the roadways of the municipality for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and the general motoring public.

Procedure:

Due to the many variations that are inherent in New England weather, each weather event may require slightly different effort and/or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

It is not possible to maintain a back road and ice-free road or sidewalk during a storm. It is the intent of the Town to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during winter storms. The Town of Atkinson does not have a Bare Roads Policy, and as such, citizens and motorists should expect to find snow-covered areas during and after the winter storm.

It is our policy to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulations of two to three inches of snowfall, or at the discretion of the Road Agent. Pre-treatment and ice control may be addressed prior to the actual storm event, during the storm as needed, and after the storm. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 25 degrees, and may not be applied until it is warmer.

All routes begin from the Highway Garage and operators will work systematically around their respective routes. No operator will leave his or her assigned route unless he/she has the approval of the Road Agent or his/her appointed designee.

Treatment of the roads may consist of sand, sand/salt mix or straight sale. The Road Agent or his/her designee will determine the most appropriate material to use based upon the current weather, expected weather, time of year and temperature.

During storms of a long duration, the Road Agent may elect to bring the crews in for a rest period. This rest period should occur late at night or at a period of time during the day when the majority of traffic has ceased. This period will last no longer that four (4) hours and may last for a shorter time period if weather conditions change. It will be the responsibility of all operators to be sure and get the needed rest during this period.

Direction of all winter maintenance activities for the Town of Atkinson is vested with the Road Agent or his/her designee.

Roads:

The Town shall remove snow on Class V roads which have been accepted by the Town and any other road which has been approved for snow removal by the Board of Selectmen.

Schools:

The Highway Department has the responsibility for the clearing of snow and winter treatment of the Town school's access roads and parking lots. On days when school is in session, winter maintenance efforts on school property must be timed to coincide with bus routing and delivery.

Parking:

The Town has enacted a winter parking ban, which is effective November 1 through April 1 of each year. The ban prohibits parking in or on all public ways and town streets between the hours of 12:01 AM and 7 AM. Each violation will be subject to a fine of Twenty Dollars (\$20) and a towing fee. The purpose of the Winter Parking Ban is to allow winter maintenance crews unobstructed snow removal or ice control measures. Winter Parking Ban Ordinance by Town vote, 1997 Warrant Article 43: *"It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any public street or highway in the Town of Atkinson between the hours of 12 Midnight and 7:00 AM from November first to April first. Further, it shall be unlawful at any time of day to park any vehicle on any street during snow removal operations in such a manner as to hinder snow removal. Violators will be fined Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for each occurrence, and said vehicle will be towed and the owner will be responsible for all towing and storage fees."*

Sidewalks:

Snow removal from sidewalks shall be the responsibility of the Road Agent. Sidewalks shall be cleared of snow and/or sanded/salted in a timely manner during and after the storm event. All efforts shall be made to clear the sidewalks of snow and ice. Sidewalks at municipal buildings will be cleared in a priority determined by the Road Agent.

Private Property in Road Right-of-Way:

It should be noted that the Town is not held responsible for damage to private property that is located within the public right-of-way. The right-of-way (ROW) is often 50 feet wide and is often confused by property owners as their own property. In most cases the ROW often extends 10 to 20 feet of either side of the paved gravel road. Homeowners often cultivate extensions of their lawns, place mailboxes, erect fences or stonewall in these areas which improve the appearance of the street but are obstructive to conducting road maintenance and snow removal.

In the event of personal property damage, the Town of Atkinson will only be responsible to repair or replace damaged property that is on private property and not within the right-of-way, and which has been in actual contact with the snow removal equipment. Damaged personal property which has not been in actual contact with snow removal equipment and which is not in the right-of-way will not be replaced. Such damage is caused by an act of nature. Mailboxes which have been installed to federal standards will be repaired or replaced if damaged by a snow plow.

As determined by the Road Agent, the snow banks resulting from the previous accumulation shall be pushed back or shelved to make space for future snowstorms. During the initial stages of the storm, roadways and sidewalks shall be plowed. After the storm, curbside burms shall be removed in these areas.

During or after a snow storm, any person who shall put or place snow or ice upon the right-of-way of any town road in such a manner as to create a hazard to a traveler or the road shall be subjected to a fine of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50) as provided in **RSA 236.20** and the Town Ordinance, Snow Removal, adopted September 17, 1974: *“During or after a snow storm, any person who shall put or place snow or ice upon the right of way of any town road in such a manner as to create a hazard to a traveler or the road shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$50.00 as provided in **RSA 236:20.**”*

236:20 Snow Obstructions. – Any person who shall put or place or cause to be put or placed any snow or ice upon the surface of the traveled portion of any class I, class III, or class III-a highway or state maintained portion of any class II highway for any purpose, except to provide a place necessary for crossing, re-crossing and traveling upon said highways by sleds, logging or farm equipment, shall be guilty of a violation if a natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person. The provisions of this section shall not apply where snow or ice is pushed across the traveled surface of said highways for the purpose of snow removal from land adjoining said highways.

Source: 1941, 57:1. RL 107:2. 1945, 188:1, part 19:18. RSA 249:23. 1973, 530:28. 1981, 87:1. 1992, 265:15, eff. July 1, 1992.

Execution:

This policy is intended to serve as the normal operating procedures for winter maintenance, snow removal and/or ice control for the Town of Atkinson. One or more of the following may delay or prevent the implementation of all or parts of this policy: Equipment breakdown; Snow accumulation in excess of 1 inch per hour; Freezing rain or other icing conditions; Traffic congestion; Emergencies; or Personal illness.

The Board of Selectmen has adopted this Snow Removal Policy, effective April 21, 2003. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content as it describes the conditions that one might expect to encounter before, during and following a winter storm event.