

**FARIBAULT COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

**Goal:** The general goal of the Department is to have all routes passable when reasonably possible after the snowfall has stopped. Clearing the driving surfaces (bituminous then gravel) is a first priority. Clearing shoulders and intersections (bituminous then gravel) will be accomplished after the driving surfaces are open to traffic. The County has only one shift of operators and snow removal equipment generally operates from early morning to mid afternoon. The county does not have a bare pavement policy where crews continue to work until the pavement is free of all snow and ice.

**Weekends and Holidays:** Weekends and holidays will receive a reduced level of service, due to lower traffic volumes and the limited resources available. The snowplow crews will operate on weekends and holidays to open the main bituminous traffic lanes. There must be more than 2 inches of wet snow or severe icing before the crews are called in on weekends or holidays. Gravel roads may be plowed if snow accumulations exceed four inches or if the gravel roads could be blocked by windblown snow. Intersection clean up and removing snow from the shoulders will generally be accomplished during the next normal workday.

**Windy conditions:** Snow removal operations will be minimized or ceased during windy conditions if visibility is too low for safe operations or the operation is ineffective because of drifting snow.

**Night operations:** Snow plow crews will not be dispatched at night, except for emergency calls such as assisting fire departments, ambulance crews or searching for known stranded motorists. Icing bridges or snow drifting on roads are an expected aspect of winter travel and generally are not adequate justification to dispatch the snowplow crews.

**Personal Property:** Mailboxes, fences and other items damaged during snow and ice removal are evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those items that were damaged by actual contact with county equipment may be repaired at the county's expense, provided they were located and installed properly.

**Residential plowing:** County residents are reminded that it is unlawful per Minnesota Statute 160.2715 to plow snow from driveways onto or across county roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Piles of snow also increase the chance of drifting snow onto the roadway. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

**Stranded vehicles:** County staff may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement and/or emergency personnel. The County will not attempt to remove a stuck vehicle except to eliminate a safety hazard.

These are GENERAL guidelines used by the Department of Public Works. Each decision to mobilize the snowplow crews is a judgment decision based on the particular weather conditions combined with past experience and therefore may not adhere strictly to this general policy.