

# **Township of Severn Winter Control Policy**

## **Policy Statement**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a statement of objectives for winter control operations, define the winter control season, and outline level of service expectations.

## **Objective**

The objective for winter control operations is to maintain safe, passable roads with priority given to roads carrying the highest volume and/or posted speed limit; facilitate the handling of emergencies by police, fire, and ambulance services; to reduce hazards of winter road and sidewalk conditions to road users; comply with the Ontario Regulation 239/02 – Maintenance Standards.

The roadway classes and definitions used in this policy are as defined in Ontario Regulation 239/02 and are based on the posted speed limit and the known volume of traffic.

## **Winter Control Season**

The Public Works Department shall have all winter operations equipment, schedules, staffing, and procedures in place to commence winter control operations on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November. Winter control operations equipment and staffing will be available to respond to winter events until the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April.

## **Roadway Plowing Level of Service**

While snow continues to accumulate, deploy resources to clear snow as soon as practical after becoming aware of the fact that the snow accumulation on the roadway is greater than the depth set out in the Table 1.

Table 1 – Treatment of Snow Accumulation (Roadways)

<b>Class of Highway</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Time</b>
2	5 cm	6 Hours
3	8 cm	12 Hours
4	8 cm	16 Hours
5	10 cm	24 Hours

After the snow accumulation has ended and after becoming aware that the snow accumulation is greater than the depth set out in Table 1, to clear the

snow accumulation to a depth of less than or equal to the depth set out in Table 1 within the timeframes set out in Table 1

Roadway plowing will clear the snow accumulation from the roadway to within 0.6 metres inside the outer edges of the roadway. On class 4 and 5 highways with two lanes, the snow accumulation on the roadway must be cleared to a width of at least 5.0 metres.

For a major snow event resources may be reassigned to higher class roads to ensure basic access for emergency vehicles and that the large traffic volumes can travel safely.

If a winter event becomes so severe that winter event response cannot safely continue all operations involved in the clearing of the snow accumulation may be suspended until conditions improve.

Clearing of windrowed snow at all residential driveways, commercial and industrial entrances will be the responsibility of the property owner.

This level of service does not apply to that portion of the roadway designated for parking.

### **Roadway Sanding Level of Service**

To prevent icy roadways within the time set out in the Table 2 after determining to deploy resources for that purpose. To prevent ice formation or improve traction,

roadways will generally receive application of abrasives on hills, curves and intersections.

Table 2 – Prevention of Ice (Roadways)

<b>Class of Highway</b>	<b>Time</b>
2	8 Hours
3	16 Hours
4	24 Hours
5	24 Hours

When icy roadways begin to form, deploy resources to treat the icy roadway as soon as practical after becoming aware of the fact that the roadway is icy.

To treat the icy roadway within the time set out in the Table 3 after becoming aware that the roadway is icy. Roadways will generally receive application of abrasives on hills, curves and intersections.

Table 3 – Treatment of Ice (Roadways)

<b>Class of Highway</b>	<b>Time</b>
2	4 Hours
3	8 Hours
4	12 Hours
5	16 Hours

If the winter event becomes so severe that winter event response cannot safely continue all operations involved in the treating of icy roadways may be suspended until conditions improve.

This level of service does not apply to that portion of the roadway designated for parking.

### **Sidewalk Plowing Level of Service**

While snow continues to accumulate, deploy resources to clear snow as soon as practical after becoming aware of the fact that the snow accumulation on the sidewalk is greater than 8 centimeters within 48 hours.

After the snow accumulation has ended and after becoming aware that the snow accumulation is greater than 8 centimeters, to clear the snow accumulation to a depth of less than or equal to 8 centimeters within 48 hours.

Sidewalk plowing will clear the snow accumulation from the sidewalk to provide a minimum sidewalk width of 1.0 metre.

If a winter event becomes so severe that winter event response cannot safely continue all operations involved in the clearing of the snow accumulation may be suspended until conditions improve.

Clearing of windrowed snow at all residential driveways, commercial and industrial entrances will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Snow removed from sidewalk snow blowers will be deposited onto municipal property where possible.

### **Sidewalk Sanding Level of Service**

Prevent ice formation or improve traction within 48 hours if there is a substantial probability of ice forming on a sidewalk.

When icy sidewalks begin to form, deploy resources to treat the icy sidewalks as soon as practical after becoming aware of the fact that the

sidewalk is icy, and treat the icy sidewalks within 48 hours after becoming aware that the sidewalk is icy.

If the winter event becomes so severe that winter event response cannot safely continue all operations involved in the treating of icy sidewalks may be suspended until conditions improve.

### **Snow Removal Level of Service**

Removal and disposal of accumulated snow is carried out in those areas where inadequate physical space exists to store the snow and/or the presence of snowbanks interferes with the movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The objective will be to deploy resources on roadways within the response time frames set out below after becoming aware that the snow banks parallel to the roadway exceed the height specified and to reduce the height of the banks to below the height indicated in Table 4 within the timeframes specified for each classification of roadway.

Table 4 – Removal of Snow Accumulation (Roadways)

Class of Highway	Depth	Time
Downtown Core(s)	60 cm	3 Days
2	90 cm	As resources permit
3-5	As required for lane width	As resources permit

Reducing depth of snowpack is carried out if there are significant ruts or potholes, which are creating a hazard, and the depth of the snowpack exceeds 8 centimeters.

Accumulated snow and/or snowpack reduction will be dependent on weather conditions and available resources.