

# WHITE PINE COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish general guidelines for snow removal in White Pine County and to provide a uniform understanding of priorities and protocol for dealing with winter weather.

## POLICY

White Pine County Road Department is scheduled to work from 6:00 am to 4:30 pm, Mon-Thu. If snow removal is required after hours, weekends or Holidays, overtime would be required. It can only be expected that services during off hours will be minimal and only provided when extreme storm conditions arise.

It will be the Road Department's goal to provide the traveling public adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. A bare, dry surface should not be expected following a winter storm.

- \* Winter maintenance and snow removal shall be conducted within practical and fiscal consideration utilizing the Road Department's resources.
- \* Snow removal will normally commence at the termination of a storm. The priority of removal will be based on road designations, levels of use and environmental factors.
- \* Snow removal during a blizzard or high wind conditions is futile and wastes the Road Department's resources.
- \* "Around the clock" snow removal operations will not take place other than when a specific emergency is involved.
- \* Overtime operations will be extended to emergency situations, areas which seasonally lend to a dangerous environment, school bus and mail routes.
- \* Persons and entities performing snow removal on County roads with their own equipment and resources will not be reimbursed, unless reimbursement is authorized by the designated County representative prior to the commencement of work. All authorizations shall be confirmed with a written statement from the Road Commissioners.

## SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURE

Within White Pine County's road systems there are roadways identified that will not be subject to winter snow removal. The rationale and reasoning include the following factors:

- \* Another access with more suitable travel conditions.
- \* No full-time residents served by the road segment.

Winter maintenance and snow removal due to terrain and elevation factors is not practical or economically feasible.

## PRIORITIES

Winter maintenance shall be based on the following criteria:

- \* Emergency situations where no other options exist such as helicopter or aircraft, snow cat or snowmobile to expedite the response action.
- \* Emergency facility access.
- \* School bus routes.
- \* Population (residential) density serviced.
- \* County dedicated and maintained roads.
- \* Secondary County roads, private roads pursuant to NRS 244.273 provisions.

## EMERGENCY DEFINITION

- \* When an illness or injury becomes life threatening or has a severe impact on one's health by potential complications and/or impairment.

## NON-EMERGENCY DEFINITION

- \* Shortages of groceries, fuel, hay, etc. are **foreseeable events and conditions** that rural residents must assume responsibility for providing over reasonable periods of time rather than on a day-to-day basis. A shortage is a pending need, not an emergency.

## PRIVATE ROAD MAINTENANCE AND SNOW REMOVAL

Any type of maintenance is subject to NRS 244.273 which allows for use of County equipment on private road, only under specific conditions.

The Road Commission and/or County Commission may authorize the use of the Road Department resources to conduct road maintenance if:

- \* The board declares an emergency; or
- \* The board deems such use to be in the best interest of the County. For example: When a private party provides a safe haven and allows the County to park or plug in equipment on their property. Private road maintenance will be conducted then impacts to those private roads were created during the maintenance of the County road system.

If the board authorizes the use of Road Department equipment being utilized on a private road pursuant to NRS 244.273, the board may require the private party to pay the County the prevailing rental rate for that piece of equipment and operator labor rates.

## SNOW PLOWING DAMAGE

Any claims for damage to property must be submitted to the White Pine County Road Department, in writing, with all supporting documentation under the following conditions:

- \* No claim will be considered if damages occur within the prescriptive right-of-way easement. (White Pine County claims a minimum of 60' or 30' off center line).
- \* No obstruction shall be placed in the right-of-way which hinders normal snow removal operation.
- \* Posts, boards, poles and wires broken or pulled down by the weight of the snow or melting snow is not considered snow plow damage.
- \* No replacement of shrubbery, grass or tree damage by snow plows or salt sand within the right-of-way.
- \* No replacement of property which has been placed in the right-of-way or easement.

## PROPERTY REPLACEMENT SHALL BE BASED ON

- \* Wire fencing and steel parts shall be amortized on a 30 year life. Wood fence and posts on a 20 year life.
- \* Any replacement shall be of equal quality.