

## **TOWN OF GLOCESTER**

### **SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

We are providing this information to help everyone understand the Town's policies on winter snow removal. Here are our procedures for sanding, plowing, parking bans, mailboxes and driveways. Who is responsible? How you can help? Who you can call?

The Town of Gloucester follows weather reports and observes conditions if there is a threat of a storm. The Public Works Director calls in the snow crew initially to spread material (salt/sand mix) on the primary and connector roads, intersections, hills and school bus routes, dependant upon the time of day or night. Our priority is to keep these roads passable for emergency services such as Police, Fire and Rescue.

The Town is divided into assigned plow routes and each route's driver will follow a pattern until a complete circuit has been opened up. The crews begin to plow when the snow has reached 2" or more in depth. The same protocol is followed, primary roads first, side streets and cul-de-sacs (usually) last. When the storm ends the drivers will return and widen the roads pushing back the snow to the edge of the road. If needed, more material will be applied to the plowed road.

**THE NATURE OF THE STORM** - Many factors have an effect on the challenges presented by any given storm. Temperature, wind, time of day, duration of the storm, day of the week, lightning, rate of accumulation, blowing and drifting and ice on limbs and power lines have an influence on how we approach the clean-up operation. Other factors would be equipment availability, possible breakdowns, maintenance, refueling, manpower and necessary rest breaks. We appreciate your patience and cooperation and if you have any questions please feel free to call the office at 401-568-5540 during normal business hours 7:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Please leave a message after hours. If it's an emergency please call the Police at 401-568-2533.

**PERSONAL SAFETY** - If you do not have to go out during the storm please stay home. If you must go out be observant of road conditions and do not pass the snow plows. When driving behind the snowplow keep your distance of 100 feet or more. PLEASE keep children away from the roads and windrows until all clean-up operations are completed. DO NOT allow children to make snow forts in the windrows. Please reach out and check in with elderly neighbors, people living alone and those with medical conditions.

**PARKING BAN** - The Town will institute a parking ban on Town streets whenever 3 or more inches of snow is forecast.. Parking Bans are announced at the bottom of the screen on local TV stations but should be considered to be in effect during most snowstorms. Your vehicle can be towed, at your expense, if it is parked in the violation of the ban. If your car is off the road the plows can clear the roads more efficiently. The parking ban stays in effect until the plowing is complete.

**THROWING (DEBRIS) SNOW ON ROADS** - State Regulation Title 31-22-9 (See attached). When you shovel or plow out our driveway or sidewalk DO NOT throw the snow in the road so as to constitute a hazard (or requiring it to be re-plowed). If you hire a contractor to plow or shovel your property please advise him of this regulation- he may be unaware.

When the plow trucks go by they produce **WINDROWS** - the ridge of snow along your property frontage, including your driveway. This is NOT done intentionally, it is a byproduct of plowing. It is the residents responsibility to clear all passages to their property including walkways and driveways.

The **TOWN RIGHT OF WAY (R-O-W)** is 16 ½ feet from the center of the road varying upon location. One of the uses of the **R-O-W** is for the placement of snow during plowing operations.

**LAWN/PROPERTY EDGES** - Please use plow markers to help prevent lawn damage. Within the Town's R-O-W plow damaged areas will be raked out, loamed and seeded in the spring. Please call DPW to let them know the location.

**SPRINKLER HEADS/SHRUBS/LANDSCAPING/ELECTRIC FENCE/ ETC.-** The Town is not responsible for any damage that occurs to the aforementioned items that are placed in the town's R-O-W. Sprinkler Systems are to be set back for the Town R-O-W, holding the Town not responsible for damage within the R-O-W.

**BASKETBALL HOOPS** - It is the Town's policy that any basketball hoop or permanent structure of any kind within the R-O-W is prohibited, The Town therefore is not liable for damage to any of these type of structures illegally placed in the Town R-O-W.

**MAILBOXES** - When your mailbox or post is damaged it's usually from the heavy snow thrown by a moving plow. Sometimes it may have been damaged by a plow because of poor visibility during the storm or unfortunately, sometimes a hit and run. Mailboxes are installed within the R-O-W at the owners risk. There are precautions you can take to protect your mailbox such as inspecting the post to be sure it is not rotted, installing reflective post markers or place it as far back from the edge of the road as allowable by Post Office standards. If the Town assumes responsibility for the damage a claim should be filed for reimbursement according to the Town's Mailbox Replacement Policy. (See attached) Claim forms are available in the Treasures office at Town Hall or at the Public Works office.

**STORM DRAINS/CATCH BASINS** - Rain and melting snow can create a flooding problem if leaves and debris cover the opening. If you are aware of a problem and are unable to clear the area please notify us with the location and we will respond as quickly as possible to resolve the issue.

**STATE ROADS** - State roads are the responsibility of the State of RI. All questions should be directed to the Gloucester State Garage at 401-568-4322.

**PRIVATE ROADS AND DRIVEWAYS** - Private roads, not maintained by the town and private driveways are the responsibility of the owner/association. The Town will provide assistance to Fire/Rescue and Police as requested during emergencies.

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