

CHAPTER 7.60

SECONDARY ROAD  
SNOW AND ICE  
CLEARANCE AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

- 7.60.010 **TITLE:** This Chapter shall be known and may be cited and referred to as the "Secondary Road Snow and Ice Clearance and Maintenance Policy" Ordinance of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
- 7.60.020 **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish Pottawattamie County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, specifically defined as November through April, as provided in HF 2487, Section 10(2), Acts of the 63rd G.A., Second Session, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 309.67, Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, and as contained in Pottawattamie County's secondary road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
- 7.60.030 **DEFINITIONS:** For the purpose of this Ordinance, certain terms and words used herein shall be defined as follows:
- .01 **COUNTY:** Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
  - .02 **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** The Board of Supervisors of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
  - .03 **COUNTY ENGINEER:** The County Engineer of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
  - .04 **COUNTY SHERIFF:** The County Sheriff of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
  - .05 **EMERGENCY:** A condition where loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred, or where extensive loss of property is imminent. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
- 7.60.040 **JURISDICTION:** The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to all of the unincorporated territory of Pottawattamie County, Iowa. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)
- 7.60.050 **LEVEL OF SERVICE:** Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of the County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves, and/or intersections. The County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose. Clearance of snow or ice, sanding, salting, and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the

amount of money budgeted for this service and as practicable. The entire width of that portion of the road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice, or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right of way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in its corners in piles of unequal height. The lines of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others. Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, and reduced or impaired visibility, and are advised to reduce their speed at least twenty-five (25) miles per hour below that legally permitted or advised under normal conditions.

In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by the motorist, and their speed should not exceed ten (10) miles per hour. During these conditions, no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)

7.60.060 **SEQUENCE OF SERVICE:** In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the County's secondary road system during the winter months, the County Engineer shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this section of the ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved roads be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt roads. The County Engineer's professional judgment shall prevail unless it is clearly erroneous. (Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002)

- .01 **PAVED ROUTES**
1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible and or practicable.
  2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
  3. The truck mounted snowplows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 5:00 P.M. - 5:00 A.M. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the County Engineer or his delegated representative.
  4. When required, due to drifting snow, motor graders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel may be delayed.

5. It is not the policy of the *County* to provide a "dry" pavement condition.
6. After roads have been plowed, as provided in the section, intersections, hills, and curves may, but not necessarily, have placed on them, salt, sand, or other abrasives. These intersections, hills, and curves may not be resanded, resalted, or have other abrasives replaced on them between snowstorms.

There is no time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above-sequence of clearance, on paved or unpaved roads, shall take place. (*Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002*)

**.02 UNPAVED ROADS**

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes opened to one-lane traffic as soon as possible and/or practicable after a storm has passed.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. Motor graders and/or truck plows will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 P.M. - 6:00 A.M. The motor graders and/or truck plows may be called off the road if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the *County Engineer* or his delegated representative.
4. Snow may not be removed from roads designated at Level B.

(*Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002*)

- .03 PRIVATE DRIVES:** The *County* will not clear snow from private drives. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private drives. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders. (*Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002*)

- .04 MAILBOX AND FENCE REPLACEMENT:** The *County* will assume no liability for mailboxes and fences damaged because of snow removal unless such action can be determined to be malicious. (*Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002*)

- 7.60.070 LIMITATION OF SERVICE:** Notwithstanding anything else stated in this ordinance, the policy and level of service provided for in this ordinance shall not include the following, and the following services **shall not be performed:**

- .01 Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon the roadways that are slick, slippery, and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- .02 Sanding, salting, or placing of other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing rain that occurs outside the *County's* usual working hours.
- .03 Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

(*Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002*)

- 7.60.080 EMERGENCY:** Service or the level or sequence of service may be suspended during *Emergency* conditions. These conditions should be verified through a physician's or *County Sheriff's* Office. The *County* will respond to all *Emergency* conditions, either during or after a snowstorm.

Service, the level of service or the sequence of service shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State Disaster Plan, or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the *County* Disaster Plan. If such occurs, the *County* personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. (*Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002*)

- 7.60.90 PENALTY FOR FALSE EMERGENCY REPORT:** Any person who makes a false report of an *Emergency* to an officer, official, or employee of Pottawattamie *County* or who causes a false report to be so made, is deemed guilty of a simple misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed one hundred (100) dollars or be imprisoned for a term not exceeding thirty (30) days for each offense. (*Ordinance #2003-03/February 22, 2002*)