



Skamania County Public Works and Community Development

Post Office Box 1009
Stevenson, Washington 98648
Office (509) 427-3910
David Waymire, Public Works Director

Skamania County Road Department Winter Maintenance Snow Removal Guidelines

Skamania County Department of Public Works, Road Division strives to provide the highest level of service within the financial constraints provided to us. With over 250 road miles this service can be a difficult balance. The department uses different methods and techniques during winter maintenance procedures throughout the county depending on snowfall amounts. The following guidelines will allow the division to better utilize all of its employees and provide an equal service to all of the residents of the county within the budgetary constraints allotted to us.

General Information

These guidelines have been developed to show all county residents what to expect and why. County Road Supervision is watching and preparing for every storm as they are forecasted. During the process of evaluation, we monitor how much snow or ice is forecasted and what resources we have available for the event. A winter storm in Skamania County has many associated hazards which we attempt to identify and plan for. These include but are not limited to predicted snowfall amounts, possible ice to follow, and whether it will be with or without associated winds. All of these conditions will determine the service level we can provide.

During these events, the amount of snow will determine which phase of operations and service levels will be provided. Skamania County has developed Road Maintenance Classifications for each road type. You will find the descriptions of Road Maintenance Levels attached at the end of these guidelines as well as a road listing showing how each road is currently classified. The guidelines are intended to show the level of service each resident may expect throughout the winter. It is very important to realize that these are guidelines only and that any conditions which affect life or property will take priority. These types of situations will limit our resources to follow the guidelines listed. To be very clear as to what this means, winter services on some roads could be substantially impacted, and will not see services until time permits. Depending on the severity, residents should plan for up to one week without service to their home.

Plowing Procedures

The County is divided into geographical sections (defined on pages 3 and 4) to help us try to provide service to all areas of the county when a winter storm arrives. We also assign shifts to cover the county 24-7 during the winter months to substantially increase response time to emergencies without overtime costs. Swing and Night Shifts range in crew size from 1 to 4 crew members per shift depending on the day of the week. These crew



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members will determine when additional operators are required to provide services throughout the county. The Road Division will normally switch to 2 – 12 hour shifts when events last more than one day.

When there is an isolated event in one part of the County, all efforts will be made to dispatch crew members and equipment to the area in need. This could mean additional activity in an area to help with the event as long as other areas are not being impacted. An example would be if we have one area of the County with numerous trees falling during the storm, we may have to pull resources to help the highly impacted area while other less impacted areas do not see services.

Sanding Procedures

When snow accumulation is not expected to be substantial and the road surfaces are ice-covered or snow-compacted, sand will be applied as needed. Sand will not be applied during heavy snowfall. The reason is that it is ineffective as it is generally plowed off of the road on the next plowing pass.

Each work area has 2 sanders, 1 with a 10-yard capacity and 1 with a 5-yard capacity.

Each operator maintains a sanding log sheet for reference of where the hazardous areas are and the areas that require sanding on a routine basis. These areas should be sanded first, but other areas that are found hazardous will be taken care of as they are discovered. The operator records the time in which the area(s) were sanded, and the total sand applied at the end of the shift. This sheet is to be signed by the operator and turned in daily.

Driveways and Mail Box Berms

Berms will be removed only when heavy equipment is widening roads and removing excessively heavy berms. On routine snow plowing, these will not be addressed. The department simply does not have the personnel to open the roads and remove driveway/mailbox berms. In the event a landowner requires **immediate emergency services response**, notify the Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatcher that you have a large berm and emergency apparatus (fire or ambulance) cannot access without its removal. A truck will be dispatched at that time for the emergency.

When Clearing your Driveway

When clearing your driveway and berm, please pile the snow to the left side as you face your house, especially as you get closer to the road. This will prevent the plow blade from dragging the material you just shoveled and placing it back across your driveway. Doing so creates obstructions in the roadway and can create hazards to other motorists. Please be considerate of other users of the road.



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This is all of the Stevenson area. It has a total of 24.21 miles of road with 40 roads. Will require an additional plow and operator during heavier snows due to the number of roads and intersections to keep open.

Home Valley Area: Plow Factor = 15.07 Requires .5 operator per shift

This area is all of the Home Valley Area to Bergen Road. This has a total of 12.13 miles with 18 roads. This truck is dispatched out of the Stevenson Shop. Will also work the south and east side of Carson throughout this assignment.

Carson Area: Plow Factor = 86.91 Requires 1.5 operators per shift.

This is all of Carson out to the WKO Mill. This area has 12.94 miles with 45 roads. Will require an additional pickup plow and operator during heavier snows due to the number of roads and intersections to keep open.

Valley Area: Plow Factor = 43.04 Requires 1 operator per shift

This area is from WKO Mill to the north end of Old State Road. This area has 18.04 miles with 25 roads. Will drop down to the Carson Area or up to the Stabler area when this area is complete.

Stabler Area: Plow Factor = 41.39 Requires 1 operator per shift

This area covers from the north end of Old State Road out to the end of Mineral Springs Road. Includes all of the Stabler area. This area has a total of 23.39 miles with 18 roads. This area usually has a larger amount of snow, which will slow the operation down.

Upper Wind River Area: Requires 3 operators per shift

This area is done only after all other areas are complete!

The area from the junction just above the Carson National Fish Hatchery up to Lone Butte Sno-Parks; down Curly Creek Road to Forest Road 90 and then West to Fire District 6 Fire Hall on Forest Service 90 Road. This area has a total of 26.50 miles with 3 roads and 8 Sno-Parks to plow. Accumulations over 24" are common.

Willard Area: Plow Factor = 39.91 Requires 1 operator per shift



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This area is from the bottom of Cook-Underwood Road and goes through the Mill A area, the Willard area, and stops at the Underwood Shop. This has a total of 23.91 miles with 16 roads. When completed with this area, will move to the Underwood area to help in that area when the snowfall subsides. This area usually has a larger amount of snow, which will slow the operation down.

Underwood Area: Plow Factor = 60.54 Requires 1 operator per shift

This area is from the Underwood Shop east to the county line, including Lakeview Area. This area has a total of 27.54 miles with 33 roads. Heavier snowfall will require an additional pick-up plow with the operator.

This is set up for a snowfall of 12" or less. When accumulations continue, additional drivers will be utilized from other departments within the county. Skamania County will also hire drivers during extremely heavy snowfalls from our local contractors to drive our trucks to help clear the roads if needed.

Winter Maintenance Guidelines

Maintenance Level 1

Plow to maintain snow accumulations at less than 4". Provide sand at hazard areas, hills or intersections, when road surface becomes frozen or snow packed, and temperatures will maintain that condition.

Maintenance Level 2

Plow to maintain snow accumulations at less than 6". Provide sand at defined problem areas, intersections or hills when road surface becomes frozen or snow packed, and temperatures will maintain that condition.

Maintenance Level 3

Attempt to maintain snow accumulations at less than 12". Provide sand at defined problem areas, intersections and hills, when road surface becomes frozen or snow packed, and temperatures will maintain that condition. It is not uncommon for these roads to accumulate snow in excess of 12" for extended time periods during storms of intense snowfall. During extreme conditions, residents should plan for up to 5 days without service.

Maintenance Level 4



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Plow after arterial and collector roads are clear. Plow these roads as opportunity permits. Accumulations can be expected to exceed 12". These roads can be expected to not be plowed on a routine schedule and may not be plowed if there is no need for residential traffic. During extreme conditions, residents should plan for up to 5 days without service.

Maintenance Level 5

No Snow Removal