

WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY

The Highway Department is responsible for winter maintenance on all State Trunk Highways and County Trunk Highways in Ashland County. Maintenance on State Trunk Highways is governed by policies developed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Maintenance on County Trunk Highways is governed by the Ashland County Highway Department Winter Road Maintenance Policy.

STATE TRUNK HIGHWAYS

All state highways in Ashland County are classified as Category 5. Under the State Highway Maintenance Policy, this allows the Department to maintain 18 hour coverage. Generally, winter maintenance activities are limited to 4 AM to approximately 8 PM (10 PM maximum). Salt is used to break the bond of snow and ice to the pavement and make roads “passable” during storm events. There is not a “bare pavement” policy. Bare pavement is achieved as soon as weather conditions permit after a storm. A copy of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s Winter Maintenance Policies are attached:

Guideline 30:05	Introduction
Guideline 30:10	Mission and History
Guideline 30.20	Classifications
Guideline 30.35	Passable Roadways
Guideline 30.36	Level of Effort
Guideline 30.40	White Shoulders
Guideline 30.50	Snow Emergencies

COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAYS

Winter maintenance on County Trunk Highways is governed by the “Ashland County Highway Department Winter Road Maintenance Policy” (see attached). Ashland County does not offer 24 hour coverage and does not use salt and does not have a bare road policy on its County Trunk System.

Ashland County uses a mixture of salt (5%) and sand (95%) as an abrasive to improve traction on its County Trunk Highways.

**ASHLAND COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY
(County)**

The Ashland County Highway Department hereby establishes a winter road maintenance policy for all County Trunk Highways under its jurisdiction.

Winter maintenance shall be governed by service restrictions based upon traffic volume. Class I highways shall have an ADT (Average Daily Traffic) volume in excess of 200. Class II highways shall have an ADT volume less than or equal to 200. Service restrictions are as follows:

Class I A.D.T. – Greater Than 200

Classes of service:

- Regular: 4:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday thru Saturday
- Reduced:** 8:00 PM to 12:00 AM Monday thru Saturday
and all day Sunday or on Holidays
- No Service: 12:00 AM to 4:00 AM on any day

As soon as practicable after a storm and completion of snow removal operations, the centerline of curves and hills and all intersections with State or other County Highways shall be sanded.

Class II A.D.T. – 200 or Less

Classes of service:

- Regular: 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday thru Saturday
- Reduced:** 3:30 PM to 8:00 PM and 4:00 AM to 7:00 AM
Monday thru Saturday and all day Sunday or on Holidays
- No Service: 8:00 PM to 4:00 AM on any day

As soon as practicable after a storm and completion of snow removal operations, the centerline of curves and hills and all intersections with State or other County Highways shall be sanded. Class I highways shall take priority over Class II highways.

** Reduced service is defined as the level of effort to keep the roads passable, at reduced speeds for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving

At anytime when visibility declines to the point that it is hazardous to the operators on the equipment, all snow plowing or ice control will be discontinued until such time as visibility improves. Should it become necessary to close a road for any reason, the Highway Commissioner or his Patrol Superintendent will notify the Ashland County Sheriff's Department and the State Department of Transportation. An attempt will also be made to notify the media.

Sanding operations shall take place as soon as practicable after a storm and completion of snow removal operations. Subsequent sanding operations shall be limited to 7:00 Am to 3:30 PM Monday through Friday thereafter. Ashland County shall use a 95% sand / 5% salt (maximum) mixture for

its sanding operations. Other mixtures or pure rock salt shall not be used on the County Trunk Highway System with the exception in the case of freezing rain, glare ice or hazardous irregular hard pack where a 50% sand / 50% salt (maximum) mixture can be used.

Ashland County does not have a bare road policy. Salt sand shall be used as an abrasive to provide better traction, not as a deicer. No attempt shall be made to bare pavement.

All County Trunk highways in Ashland County will be considered snow routes. If abandoned vehicles are encountered on the highways, the Sheriff's Department will be notified for their removal from the highway at the expense of the vehicle owner. If a vehicle is encountered that completely blocks one or more lanes of traffic halting snow removal operations, the vehicle will be moved by whatever means necessary to reopen the roadway. Any damage incurred in such a move shall be the owner's responsibility.

As snow is being removed from any highway in Ashland County, it will be pushed to the side of the road and therefore could be piled in driveway entrances. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or occupant of the entrances to remove the snow. Anyone pushing snow onto the highway will be fined pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes.

The Ashland County Highway Department has adopted a Policy for the Accommodation of Mailboxes and Newspaper Deliver Boxes on Highway Right-of-Ways. The Policy outlines the Department's responsibility with respect to mailbox repair or replacement, due to winter maintenance operations. Mailboxes damaged by flying snow or ice shall not be repaired. Mailboxes damaged by direct impact with Department equipment may be repaired and or replaced, if certain conditions are met including installation standards.

It is assumed that motorists will use caution in their winter driving; operate the vehicles in a safe manner; have their vehicle's properly equipped for winter travel; be aware of the weather and winter driving conditions before travelling; and limit their travel when hazardous conditions exist.