

Town of Plainfield Winter Maintenance policy

Introduction

The Town of Plainfield's roads are subject to freezing rain, ice, snow and drifting at any time from November through April. The Town's goal is to maintain its approximately 35 centerline miles of roads in as good winter driving conditions as weather, equipment, and budgets allow. This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowfall or ice storm. Furthermore, this does not mean that roads will be free of ice and snow.

Snow and ice control

Planning and preparing for snow and ice operations is difficult due to the uniqueness of each storm. The inter-relationship of factors such as rate of snow fall, moisture content, accumulation, temperature, time of day, and wind velocity determines the uniqueness of each storm. The town maintains adequate supplies of sand and rock salt

During a snow or ice event, the town road crew will start snow and ice operations at approximately 4:30 am and continue till 8:00 am when necessary. Each plow route takes approximately 3 hours to complete under normal conditions, route time could be extended due to the conditions of the event. Some events may necessitate difference of hours and will be determined per event. The Superintendent of Highways has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations in a severe storm conditions when there is a danger to operators, or is not practical or cost effective to continue.

During snow and ice events, the town road crew will respond to emergency conditions to the extent practical. The town will not respond to unverified emergency request direct from the public. The request must come from appropriate emergency agency, (i.e. fire, police, etc.). If the town is directed by emergency agency, the town will plow private driveways if so, directed by police, fire, or other emergency units of government. Town employees and operators are not responsible for any damage occurring during the snow removal operations from private driveways during emergency operations.

Due to limited budgets and personnel, the town may not have sufficient equipment to handle severe snow and ice storms as rapidly as usual. No guarantee is made or implied on removal operations. The main objective of snow and ice control is to plow the road surfaces to the shoulder and try to keep the center of road bare surface if possible. The Town of Unadilla endeavors to maintain adequate traction for vehicle's properly equipped for winter driving conditions.

Private Driveways

Driveway maintenance is the property's owner's responsibility. Property owners should not place snow over or on to the ends of the driveways culvert. It is the property owner's responsibility to keep culverts open and clear for the passage of water. The Town of Plainfield and its employees are not responsible for snow removal from private driveways and yards. New York State prohibits the plowing of snow from driveways across any roadways. Violators may be liable for fines and civil liability due to injury or accidents. If private contractors are used by property owners, they must be made aware of this policy. **NYS highway law 214** (*Depositing ashes, snow, ice, stones, sticks, et cetera upon the highway. Any person who shall deposit or throw loose stones in the gutter or grass adjoining a town highway, or shall deposit or throw upon a highway, ashes, papers, snow, ice, stones, sticks, or other rubbish, shall be liable to a penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars to be sued for and recovered by the town superintendent. No stone or other rubbish shall be drawn to and deposited within the limits of any highway, except for the purpose of filling in a depression or otherwise improving the highway, and only with the written consent and under the direction of the town superintendent*)

Mailboxes

Operators are instructed to be very cautious near mailboxes. In most cases a properly installed and maintained mailbox will permit a snow plow to clear snow underneath it. Most cases of damage mailboxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. Please see the Town of Plainfield mailbox policy for further information.

Equipment

The Town of Plainfield has equipment designed for snow and ice operations. The equipment is kept in good repair. The town's equipment is subject to break downs and unforeseen incidents, when this happens plowing route times may be extended. The town takes all steps possible to ensure equipment down time is at a minimum.

In addition, the Town of Plainfield has shared service agreements with most local municipalities and New York State that could provide equipment and personnel if deemed necessary.

Sidewalks

It is the adjacent property owner's responsibility to remove snow and ice from sidewalks and around fire hydrants within 24 hours of a snow fall.

Town owned roads

The Town of Plainfield maintains only Town owned roads. A complete list of roads is available from the Highway Dept. or the Town Clerk

The Town of Plainfield does declare some sections or whole roads as seasonal use only. Signs are posted on those roads as well as a copy available from Highway Dept or Town Clerk

Complaints

Written complaints addressed to the Superintendent of Highways, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk or Town Board members will be addressed by the Superintendent of Highways. Any verbal complaints given to a Town of Plainfield Highway employee, Superintendent of Highways, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk or Town Board member if given in a respectable manner will be relayed to the proper personnel. Town of Plainfield Highway employee, Superintendent of Highways, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk or Town Board members or their spouses and family members will not deal with rude, obscene or belligerent complaints, actions or behavior. Anonymous complaints will not be acted on.