

**VILLAGE OF SLINGER
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

Policy Subject:	8.1 Snow & Ice Control
Point of Contact:	Director of Public Works
Last Revised On:	January 2, 2013

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the Village policy and level of effort for snow removal operations during winter storms. The ability to react promptly and decisively to varying winter weather conditions with regard to snow removal and ice control on Village streets and sidewalks is recognized to be an important and necessary function of government, for the safety and well-being of its citizens and visitors.

Definitions

1. **Passable roadway:** A passable roadway is defined as a roadway surface that is free from drifts, snow ridges, and as much ice and snow pack as is practical and economical while allowing vehicles to travel safely at reasonable speeds. A passable roadway should not be confused with a “dry pavement” or “bare pavement” policy, which aims to completely remove all ice, snow, and moisture after every winter storm event. This “dry/bare pavement” condition may not exist until the weather conditions improve and may not be provided at all as it has a substantial environmental and economic impact to Village taxpayers.
2. **Reasonable speed:** Reasonable speed is considered to be a speed that a vehicle can travel without losing traction. During and immediately following a winter storm event, a reasonable speed will likely be a speed that is lower than the posted speed limit. Motorists should be prepared to encounter some inconvenience and will be expected to modify their driving practices to suit road conditions.
3. **Curb-to-Curb Snow Clearing:** In order to avoid damage to curbs, turf areas and mailboxes, snowplows must keep a safe distance away. It is expected that property owners will have to remove some snow in order to provide easy access to mailboxes by letter carriers. Generally speaking, when curb-to-curb plowing operations are discussed it means that Village crews will attempt to remove snow to within three (3) feet of the face of the curb and does not mean that all snow will be removed from a roadway. Plows are not capable of clearing snow all the way to the face of curb and keeping three (3) feet from the face of curb should limit damage to mailboxes, street lights, signs and curbs.

Policy

Due to changing environmental practices and economical concerns, it is not the Village's intent to provide "bare pavement" driving conditions at all times and at all locations during the winter season. Village-wide application of road salt may NOT generally be done except in the case of a significant ice storm or similar extreme condition. All salt applications will be held to a minimum, as determined by the Superintendent of Public Works. Hazardous areas such as hills, curves, railroad crossings, and controlled intersections will be given priority attention to minimize slippery conditions. However, it is the responsibility of each motor vehicle operator to use care and caution while driving when snow or ice conditions exist.

Minor Salt and Snow Operations: During a minor salt and snow operation during normal working hours, defined as less than two inches of snow, the Superintendent of Public Works will determine when it becomes necessary to begin salting operations.

Full-Scale Plowing and Salting Operations: During conditions that warrant a full-scale plowing and salting operation, defined as more than two inches of snow, the Superintendent of Public Works will order said operations to commence during normal working hours.

After Hours, Weekends and Holidays: After hours, during weekends and Village recognized holidays, the Slinger Police Department will work in coordination with the Superintendent of Public Works to determine when road conditions warrant plowing and/or salting operations to commence.

Snow and ice removal will be prioritized based on traffic volumes to provide the greatest level of safety to the greatest number of residents as quickly as possible. Crews will continue post-storm clean up operation following initial plowing and salting so that all streets will be cleared curb-to-curb. Dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs and alleys consume a lot of time for snow removal operations. Generally, cul de sac cleanup will consist of one pass to open access to mailboxes and driveways and cleanup will follow as time permits.

A daytime snowplowing operation generally takes more time than a night time snowplowing operation due to traffic and parked cars. During warmer weather conditions it may be determined to use salt only and forego plowing operations.

Extended snow storms make snow and ice removal more difficult and less effective. Crews will concentrate on roads with higher traffic volumes and attempt to maintain access to USH 41 and STH 60 as well as keeping hills and intersections open. Residential streets will be plowed as time permits and then only to provide basic access to streets until the storm ends and a more complete cleanup may be performed.

At locations where plowing operations may push snow onto sidewalks, the Public Works Crews will do their best to avoid snow discharge onto sidewalks. At times some areas may experience excessively large deposits of snow or ice on sidewalks. At these times and at the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Public Works, crews will remove excess snow or ice from the area during normal business hours as time permits this work to be performed. Snow removal procedures from the downtown area and roadways with limited snow storage capacity will be performed as follows:

- a. Due to existing conditions, such as limited snow storage area, it may become necessary to restrict parking along some Village roadways. The goal of the Village's snow removal operation is to keep each roadway open to its maximum extent practical; however, this is not always possible.
- b. After heavy snowfall or periodically throughout the winter, the Superintendent of Public Works may elect to remove accumulated snow from certain streets of his selection. Said removal will be performed only at times when equipment and manpower is available and usually during normal working hours which will warrant the placement of temporary no parking areas to allow access to said areas. Vehicles parking in these temporary no parking areas during the restriction risk towing or being bypassed during snow removal. Areas bypassed due to parked vehicles may not be revisited.
- c. Normal plowing operations will deposit snow onto adjacent sidewalks that are located directly next to or near curb and gutters. Residents will not push or deposit the snow back into the roadway to allow for full access and parking along said streets. At the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Public Works, roadways with little or no room between the curb and sidewalk may be subjected to parking restrictions on one or both sides of the roadway to allow for additional snow storage.

It is impossible for Village plow drivers to prevent snow from being pushed into driveways during snow removal operations. In order to minimize this inconvenience to property owners after a snowfall, it is intended that Village crews complete the plowing of a given area within a relatively short period of time, rather than make periodic passes with the plow and each time deposit additional snow in driveways unless this procedure is required to keep the roads open.

Residents are reminded that snow plowed or thrown on Village streets from private driveways and parking lots is in violation of Village ordinance 8.05 (A). Violators will be reported to the Police Department for enforcement of the ordinance.

Hydrants: It is the responsibility of property owners immediately adjacent to a fire hydrant to keep access open to the hydrant at all times. In the event of a fire, immediate access is needed to the hydrant and the Fire Department and/or Public Works Department

will not be able to locate a hydrant, remove snow from the hydrant and utilize the hydrant for fire fighting purposes.

Catch Basins: Property owners who notice water backing up into roadways and/or driveways due to drainage structures being plugged with ice and/or snow are encouraged to report the location of these structures to the Village Hall. It is mutually beneficial to the Village and property owners to keep drainage structures as free of snow and/or ice as possible to prevent the potential of damage to roads or driveways.

Snow and ice removal from drainage structures and/or storm sewers will be prioritized by the Superintendent of Public Works and clearing of these areas will proceed based on this prioritization.

Cul De Sacs: Cul De Sacs present different challenges to the plow operator. Snow storage and distance from the curb increase in these areas. Under normal conditions, the Village will direct snow towards the center of the Cul De Sac whether there is a green space in the center or not. As time permits, staff may remove the stored snow on a schedule that is determined by the Director of Public Works and/or Superintendent.

Complaints: Complaints about plowing or damage due to plowing operations may be called in to the Village Hall at 262-644-5265. The majority of snowplowing complaints received by the Public Works Department in the past have been for damaged mailboxes, or lawn areas damaged from plows or that snow removal was too far from the curb and the post office could not deliver mail. Homeowners need to understand that they must clean out their own mailbox area in order to receive uninterrupted mail delivery. Mailbox reimbursement will be considered on a case by case basis when a complaint is initiated by a property owner.