

TOWN OF ALBANY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

WINTER WEATHER MAINTENANCE POLICY AND PRIORITIES ORDINANCE



WINTER WEATHER MAINTENANCE, SNOW REMOVAL & ICE CONTROL

Pursuant to GOVERNING LAWS: NH RSA 231:59, 62, 92, 92-a, and NH RSA 507-B: 2-b

GENERAL POLICY:

Winter weather in northern New England and in Albany, NH is difficult to predict. There are many variables affecting winter maintenance operations such as type of precipitation, air and pavement temperature, traffic, wind, time of day and day of week. Winter maintenance is considered an art, not a science. It is the goal and intent of the Town of Albany to provide timely, efficient and cost effective winter maintenance, snow removal and ice control on the roadways of the Town of Albany for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and the general motoring public.

The Town of Albany only has legal authority to spend public taxpayer's money to maintain, remove snow and treatment for snow & ice only on Class IV and Class V roads, and bridges.

The Town of Albany does not have any obligation or authority to maintain, plow, salt or sand Class VI or private roads, sidewalks along those roads, or private driveways.

PROCEDURE: Due to the many variables that are inherent to New England weather, each storm and/or weather event may require slightly different efforts and/or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks, which together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy. Due to the unpredictability of weather and snow/ice storms, the Albany Road Agent will have the ultimate authority regarding the strategy and the means to attack each weather event.

LEVEL OF SERVICE: It is NOT possible to maintain a black snow and ice free road surface during a storm. It is the intention of the Town to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during winter storms. This is based upon equipment and personnel availability. The Town of Albany does not have a bare roads policy and as such citizens and motorists should expect to find snow-covered areas during and after the winter storm and proceed by driving with extreme care.

It is our policy to start to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulations of three (3) inches of snowfall. The Albany Road Agent may, at his discretion, based upon weather information reports and past experience, elect not to remove snow until greater or lesser accumulations of snow. Snow accumulations greater than three inches may be allowed before plowing operations begin during the overnight hours of 12 midnight and 4 AM. All plow and maintenance routes will be determined and directed by the Albany Road Agent.

Pre-treatment and ice control may be addressed prior to the actual storm beginning and/or during the actual storm as seen effective. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and may not be applied until it is warmer. Dry rock salt needs moisture or water in order to work which makes it temperature effective and sensitive.

Application of a liquid brine mixture (approximately 23.3% rock salt / 76.7% water mixture) for the pretreatment of roads may be applied in predetermined time frames before predicted snow storm events to aid in the effectiveness of deicing operations on Town roads. Salt brine significantly speeds up the effectiveness process.

After the storm has finished, treatment of the roads will begin when the routes have been cleared of snow. Treatment may consist of sand, sand/salt mix, straight salt or a retreatment of brine depending on road conditions or a successive weather event. The Road Agent will determine the most appropriate materials to be used based on current weather, expected weather, time of year, temperature and availability of materials needed.

During storms of long duration, the Road Agent may elect to stop snow removal operations for a rest period. This rest period should occur late at night after the majority of traffic has ceased. This rest period will last as long as the Road Agent deems appropriate due to weather conditions and equipment operator's safety. It will be the responsibility of all maintenance equipment drivers and personnel to be sure and get the needed rest during this period.

During periods of snow fall rates of less than 1 inch per hour the Road Agent may elect to stop snow removal operations. Current weather conditions, weather forecasts, as well as day of the week will be considered before operations will be shut down.

During freezing rain storms the roads will be treated with salt and/or a sand/salt mixture. The roads may not be plowed until the end of the event for safety reasons. There may be several inches of snow, slushy ice accumulation on the roadways during this type of storm. Be mindful that the salt brine or salt slurry works best on the roads if it is not plowed by the wayside too soon.

MATERIALS: The Town bases its annual budget for snow removal materials in part on past usage and estimated weather forecasts. The sand is used as an abrasive and is applied to the road to improve traction for motor vehicles. Salt is employed as a deicing and anti-icing agent. Liquid brine mixture for

the pretreatment of roads may be employed as needed. Highway salt and sand supplies are for use on municipal property only.

COMMAND: Direction of all winter maintenance activities, hired contractors and their personnel for the Town of Albany is vested with the Albany Road Agent. Enforcement of this Winter Weather Maintenance Policy is vested with the Board of Selectmen.

EXECUTION: The policy outlined above is intended to serve as the normal operating procedures for winter maintenance, snow removal and/or ice control for the Town of Albany. One or more of the following, which may delay or prevent the implementation of this policy, may affect all or any part of this policy:

- Equipment Breakdown
- Snow accumulation in excess of 1” per hour
- Freezing rain or other icing conditions
- Traffic Congestion
- Emergencies
- Personnel Illness
- Personnel Rest Periods

RESIDENT ACTIONS & ROADSIDE PARKING: Residents shall not park or place objects within the Town Right of Way during the winter season (November 1 to April 1). Blowing, drifting and accumulated snow make it difficult to see and avoid obstacles. The Town Contractor’s snow removal equipment (including the equipment of any of the Town’s additional winter contractors) shall make every effort to avoid mail boxes or other private objects. Neither the Town of Albany nor its contractors will be responsible for repair or replacement of any damaged mailboxes or privately owned objects placed or left within the Town’s Right of Way.

Residents should address all winter road related concerns and issues during the winter months to the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall at 447-6038.

NO PARKING ON TOWN ROADS: From November 1 to April 1 there shall be no parking on roads in the Town of Albany between 7PM to 7AM. Parking fines (\$100 per violation) and towing costs will be the responsibility of the owners of vehicles parked in the road during these times.

MOTORIST RESPONSIBILITIES: It is the responsibility of all motorists using the roads in Albany to drive with extreme care and adjust your traveling speeds to the conditions of the roads. These considerations should be followed during snow and ice storms and at all times during the winter months. Beware of black ice from melting and then freezing snow and ice at all times.

WIDENING & PUSHING SNOW BANKS BACK: The Albany Road Agent and hired contractors are responsible for plowing the Town roads. During the winter season snow banks will accumulate on roadsides. Every effort will be made to push banks back during or soon after the storm events as appropriate equipment is available. This action may result in snow from the roadway being

deposited at the end of driveways. Residents must plan for snow removal from their driveway accordingly.

PLACEMENT OF SNOW IN RIGHT OF WAY: Residents shall refrain from moving snow/ice from the driveways into or onto the Town roads. No snow is to be shoveled, blown, plowed or placed, by any means, onto Town roads or across roadways to the opposite side snow banks. This not only creates added cost to the Town but can also lead to hazard conditions for public travel. The Town of Albany will hold violators placing snow or ice onto the roads responsible with a fine associated of \$500.00 per violation.

ROADWAY OBSTRUCTIONS: If any pedestrian, vehicle, or other item that interferes with snow removal operations, the Albany Road Agent or Town’s contractor personnel will seek the cooperation of the owner to remove it immediately. If the owner cannot be readily located or if the owner refuses to cooperate, the Albany Road Agent or contract operator shall contact the Carroll County Sheriff’s Department for assistance. The violator(s) shall be responsible for any and all costs incurred in remedying the situation as determined by the law enforcement personnel at the scene.

IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE: All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content of this WINTER WEATHER MAINTENANCE POLICY AND PRIORITIES ORDINANCE as it describes the conditions one might expect to encounter before, during and after a winter storm event.

NOTICE: This policy shall be posted in appropriate public places (and the Town Web site) in the Town of Albany as determined by the Selectmen and Albany Road Agent. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the contents hereof as it describes conditions that one might encounter before, during and after a winter storm event. Copy also forwarded to Carroll County Sheriff’s Dept.

ADOPTION: The Albany Board of Selectmen has adopted this ordinance with policies and priorities encompassing standard operating procedures for winter maintenance, on April 3, 2019.

Rick Hiland, Chairman

Cathy Ryan, Selectman

Joe Ferris, Selectman

Curtis Coleman, Road Agent