

## LOUISA COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE

**Title:** An ordinance establishing the policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of this County's Secondary Roads during the winter months.

Be it enacted by the Board of Supervisors of Louisa County, Iowa;

**SECTION 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this ordinance is to establish this County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow and ice and maintenance of its Secondary Road System during the winter months, as provided in HF 2487, Section 10(2), Acts of the 63<sup>rd</sup> G.A., Second Session, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 309.67, Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, and as contained in this County's Secondary Road Budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

**SECTION 2. Level of Service.** Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the Secondary Road System during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of Louisa County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the County roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves, and/or intersections. The County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose.

All clearance of snow and ice, sanding, salting, and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service.

The entire width of that portion of the road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice, or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right-of-way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled portion to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in its corner in piles of unequal height. The line of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulder by others.

Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, and reduced or impaired visibility, and are advised to reduce their speed at least 25 miles per hour below that legally permitted or advised under normal conditions.

In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by the motorist, and their speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour. During these conditions no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed that warn of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

**SECTION 3. Sequence of Service.** In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the County's Secondary Road System during the winter months, the County Engineer shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this Section of the Ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt roads. The County Engineer's professional judgement shall prevail unless it is clearly erroneous.

### A. Paved Routes

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. The truck mounted snowplows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and/or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgement of the County Engineer or his delegated representative.
4. When required, due to drifting snow, motor graders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.

5. It is not the policy of the County to provide a “dry” pavement condition.
6. After roads have been plowed as provided in this section, intersections, hills, and curves may have placed on them, salt, sand, or other abrasive. These intersections, hills, and curves may not be re-sanded, re-salted, or have other abrasives replaced on them between snowstorms. This sequence of service shall be performed only between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. each day, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays observed by County employees.

**B. Unpaved Roads.**

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes opened to one-lane traffic as soon as possible after a storm passes.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. Motor graders and/or truck plows will not normally be in operation between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. Gravel roads may not be plowed if the wind is causing continual drifting.
4. Snow may not be removed from roads designated at Level B.

**C. Private Drives**

The County will not clear snow from private drives. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private drives. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders.

There is no time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequence of clearance, on pave or unpaved roads, shall take place.

**SECTION 4. Limitation of Service.** The policy and level of service provided for in this Ordinance shall not include the performance of the following services:

- A. Sanding, salting, or placing of other abrasives upon the roadways that are slick, slippery, and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- B. Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing precipitation that occurs outside the County’s usual working hours
- C. Placing of additional warming or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.
- D. Sanding, salting, or placing abrasives upon any road, except for paved roads.
- E. Re-sanding or re-salting for freezing and thawing between snowstorms.

**SECTION 5. Emergency Conditions.**

- A. The sequence of service may be suspended during “Emergency” conditions. An “Emergency” condition shall be considered as one where a loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred, or where extensive loss of property is imminent. These conditions shall be verified.
- B. The provisions of the Ordinance shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State Disaster Plan, or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the County Disaster Plan.

**SECTION 6. Repealer.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 7. Severability Clause.** If any section, provision, or part of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

**SECTION 8. When Effective.** This Ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.