

**SNOW REMOVAL  
POLICY  
2023-2024**

The purpose of the Hocking County Engineer's Snow Policy is to provide the safest possible County roadway system and access routes for the motoring public, public schools, fire, sheriff, emergency aid vehicles, the citizens of Hocking County and surrounding communities. Understanding the policy cannot eliminate all the impacts or effects of a snow and/or ice emergency.

The policy is intended to communicate Hocking County Engineer's Office's preliminary coordination efforts to reduce the threat to public safety from a snow and ice emergency. During inclement weather, the Hocking County Engineer's Office will make every effort to maintain the traffic flow on County Highways as close to normal driving condition as possible.

### **OPERATIONS:**

The Hocking County Engineer staffs an experienced, qualified crew of employees sufficient for handling snow and ice control for the county roads. The road crew is a group of full-time employees that work year-round and who are individually required to maintain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The department has 14 snow routes. Each route is 11-19 miles in length with each using single axle dump trucks with a capacity of 10 tons of salt and sand mix. It takes approximately 2-3 hours to complete salt/sand mix application and 3-4 hours for plowing each route.

The Hocking County Engineer has 2 large covered storage facilities, both located at the Engineer's Office, 1286 California Avenue, Logan, Ohio. One is used for Salt and the other for a salt and sand mixture.

### **PRIORITIES:**

The Hocking County Engineer's Office will continue to do our utmost to provide the safest roads, however this standard does not include a bare pavement policy. Road treatment may be at times limited to curves, hills and intersections. This of course will depend on the type of storm and the duration of the storm.

When a snow and ice event continues, routes are continually monitored. Some roadways may require salting and plowing several times during a storm event.

When severe winter storm conditions warrant, the Hocking County Engineer and the Hocking County Sheriff's Office will determine if levels of emergency are warranted that will restrict travel on Hocking County roadways.

### **SAFETY:**

During the winter season, the Hocking County Engineer's Office's first priority is to provide safety for all of the traveling public using the County road system. Practice caution for you and your family, and drive with extreme care during the winter season.

### **DURING A WINTER STORM EVENT:**

Do not allow children and pets to play on the roadways or on the snow berms as this is very dangerous. Drivers may not see them or be able to stop in time to avoid hitting them

As snow is plowed from roadways, windrows ( a line or row of snow) can be created at the end of driveways and are the property owner's responsibility to clear. Do not shovel or put snow from driveways onto or across county roads as this is unlawful and creates a hazard for other drivers.

### **ON THE ROAD:**

During storm events, don't go out on the roads unless you have to. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.

Snow plows make frequent stops and backup maneuvers. Do not drive your car up behind a snow plow as the driver may not be able to see you and inadvertently back into your car. If you are behind a plow that stops, stop your vehicle in such a way that your car looks into the driver's outside rearview mirror, and please give them extra room.

Drivers are also urged to give an oncoming snow truck right of way. During the winter months, the berm or shoulder of the road is often too soft to support the weight of a loaded salt truck. These drivers cannot move off of the road to let oncoming traffic pass on the roadway. If you see a salt truck approaching on a road, please be courteous and pull off into the nearest driveway and let the snow truck pass.

Although County Highway Department personnel are not authorized to pull other vehicles from ditches or snow drifts, they will notify the sheriff's department of your need for assistance, if requested.

### **STORM DAMAGE:**

Although undesired, there is always a potential for damage to mailboxes and fences during the snow removal process. Damage will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Mailboxes and fences that are damaged by actual physical contact with County equipment will be repaired at the County's expense, but only if they were properly located and installed. The mail box owner is responsible for repair and or replacement of the mailbox if the mailbox was damaged by the pressure of the plowed snow and there was no physical contact with the plow equipment.

A properly installed and maintained mailbox, with the face of the box 3' from the edge of the pavement, will withstand snow removal operations.

In the event that your properly placed mailbox is down, you may call the Hocking County Engineer's Office at 740-385-8543. The Engineer's Office will replace or repair boxes damaged by a snow plow. Replacements will be with a standard U.S. Postal mailbox and a 4x4 pine post, if necessary.

Properly placed, altered or custom-made mailboxes damaged by the snow plow, will be repaired if possible. If not repairable, the resident will have the option of a standard U.S. Postal mailbox or the established cost of the materials for the U.S. Postal mailbox and post materials.

The County Engineer will not be responsible for any mailbox that is above the standard U.S. Postal mailbox permitted in the right of way. Replacement of such will be the sole responsibility of the owner.

Mailbox repairs will not take place until current snow operations are finished.

#### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

It is not uncommon for snow plows in the course of clearing roads to push snow in front of driveways. When possible, this will be avoided. Homeowners can help prevent their driveways from being plowed shut by trying to shovel snow along the road in front of the driveways a distance equal to the width of their driveway.

Residents are requested not to park cars in the roadway or on the roadway edge so as not to impede the snowplows.

Residents can greatly assist during a snow by clearing the snow from around mailboxes and entrances to driveways.

**PLEASE REMEMBER, WE NEED YOUR HELP. DO YOUR PART IN MAKING THIS A SAFE WINTER**

