

# **Teller County Public Works Transportation Division**

## **Snow and Ice Control Policy**

### **What you need to know**

#### **Our Hours of Operation:**

After evaluating the severity of a snowstorm or conditions of the roads the Transportation Division will determine the hours of operation for the snow removal crews. Each storm is different so each storm may have a different response. Generally, we have two shifts for 24-hour coverage.

If the storm or conditions are severe equipment may be mobilized at any time and will operate continuously until roads are opened.

#### **Plowing and Sanding Standards**

Teller County does not have a “bare pavement policy”. Limited sanding will be performed during the snowfall event in appropriate areas. Until the snow has stopped sand is not effective in keeping the roadway open. Traction material will be placed at intersections, on hills and curves as needed. During continuous plowing sand is plowed off the roadway.

After the storm has stopped a more aggressive sanding routine will be followed using salt sand mixtures. Sanding on level 2 and level 3 roads may be limited to hills, curves and intersections.

Anti skid material will consist of a salt sand mixture designed to provide traction and to prevent ice formation on the roadway. We routinely work with the Sheriffs Office Patrol Deputies who alert us of any unsafe areas needing sand.

#### **Road Classifications for Snow Removal**

Teller County has nearly 600 miles of centerline roads, which equates to 1200 miles of travel for our fleet of 16 pieces of snow removal equipment.

Arterial roads and school bus routes receive priority since they are generally the main roads leading to and entering sub-divisions. During a snowfall crews will concentrate on these roads.

After the snow has stopped and when arterial roads and bus routes are sufficient, plows will begin to move to all County roads.

## **Road Classifications for Snow Removal (cont)**

The first priority will be to provide in and out access to all County roads. This generally happens within 24 hours AFTER the snow has stopped falling and depending on storm severity.

Teller County will provide emergency snow removal operations at any time regardless of priority if requested to do so by the Teller County Sheriff's Department.

## **Widening and Cleanup**

It is necessary to perform widening operations to remove snow off of the traveled surface and onto the right side of the County ROW to prepare for subsequent snow events. cul-de-sacs will also be cleaned and pushed back during widening operations. Widening and cleanup operations are performed for up to a week after a substantial snow event and may be continuous during windy conditions.

Teller County has varied topography and many routes cannot be plowed by a plow truck and must be plowed with a grader. These routes will be sanded as soon as trucks are available.

## **Severe Winter Storms**

During significant severe storm events transportation may forgo the normal snow removal policy and issue orders to open as many roads as possible to one lane width to facilitate emergency responses.

## **Driveways and Private Roads**

Transportation will not remove snow from private driveways or roads including the portion of these driveways and roads that extend into the County Right-of Way. It is necessary to plow snow from the driven surface and place the snow in the ROW. We simply do not have the resources to clear driveways or private roadways.

Driveways may be obstructed due to snow removal operations. We regret this however it is necessary to provide a reasonable level of service on our roadways with the available resources.

## **Abandoned Vehicles**

Abandoned and parked vehicles in the right –of-way may be towed at the owner’s expense if they are blocking the roadway. Also the road may not be plowed until the vehicle is removed. We will make every reasonable effort to contact you before this happens

## **Plowing Snow from Private Property onto a Roadway**

TCDOT discourages private property owners from depositing snow on a county roadway. The ridge and loose snow left in the road causes a very dangerous situation for travelers and once frozen can damage snowplow equipment. We understand that in some situations that this may be the only option. Snow must be placed out of the traveled roadway and no ridges are to be left in the roadway. If you perform snowplowing across a county ROW you do so at your own risk and you will assume responsibility for any damages that are caused to public property, private property and utilities. Also please be advised that creating an obstruction on a public roadway is unlawful and you could be held liable for any damages or claims. Be responsible and help keep our roadways safe.

## **What can you do to help?**

Be patient; be assured that the crews are doing everything possible to keep roadways open and safe. The process simply takes time and during heavy snows we aren’t able to attend to every road in a short period of time.

Be courteous to the plow operators and don’t obstruct their path speed is critical in plowing operations.

Stay back 200 feet when following a plow so that they can utilize the sander properly and your windshield remains undamaged.

Don’t park along streets and roadways during snowfall events.

Keep your vehicle well maintained and ensure that you have adequate snow tires suitable for winter travel.

Drive defensively and keep speeds to a minimum while driving on snow packed and icy roads.

## **Contact Information**

Phone: (719) 687-8812

Fax: (719) 686-5454

Office hours 7:30 am- 4:00 pm Mon-Fri.

During severe storm events we will regularly check messages and communicate issues with our crews.

If you have an emergency requiring immediate assistance call 911

During severe storms we will also post information on the Teller County Website.

- Public Works- Transportation Division.