

Snow Clearing Policy

RM of Leask No. 464

Purpose

The RM of Leask No. 464, within the resources allocated by RM Council, will clear and/or remove snow and ice, as necessary on municipal roadways in accordance with this policy.

Background

The RM of Leask No. 464 maintains almost 500 miles of municipal roads including subdivisions, regional parks and the Organized Hamlet of Pelican Cove. In order to reasonably meet the public's expectations, the Snow Clearing Policy will apply:

The following policy has been established by Council to provide guidelines for the Superintendent of Public Works and Public Works Staff to follow in order to ensure consistent practices for snow removal.

Some variations in the plan may be necessary as special snow conditions may arise

Hours of Operation

Snow clearing/removal operations will only begin once the snowfall has ended or is expected to end shortly, and visibility is greater than 300 meters. In cases where the snowfall ends the evening before or during the night, snow clearing operations will begin the following morning or as according to policy. Public works employees and equipment will be dispatched or put on standby according to the Superintendent of Public Works or his designates discretion upon review of meteorological forecasts and other factors such as wind velocity, direction and temperature. During extreme snowfall events where the snowfall amount and/or accompanying severe drifting conditions make it impractical to complete the snow clearing operations with a full complement of resources and continuous effort, the time limits specified may be extended. If the temperature is -30 degrees Celsius or lower or if the wind chill value is lower than -35 degrees Celsius the RM equipment will not operate.

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Snowfall

a) Level 1: Snowfall amounts of less than 5 cms

This does not require a full snow clearing operation, although some minor clearing may be done at the Superintendent of Public Works. Ice control may be necessary within some rural areas, depending on various factors including: temperature, forecast, wind conditions, traffic volumes, etc. This level does not require call in of laid off employees.

b) Level 2: Snowfall amounts of 5 cms up to 15 cms (accumulative)

Snow clearing/removal will begin on the first regular work day following the snowfall. Snow removal shall be done in order of priority within each respective area. This level does not require call in of laid off employees. As per the union contract the Superintendent of Public Works may operate snow clearing equipment.

c) Level 3: Snowfall amounts of 15 cms or more

Snow clearing/removal will be initiated shortly after snowfall has ceased. In situations where snowfall ends late in the day or evening, snow clearing operations shall commence the following morning. Snow clearing/removal shall be done in order of priority within each respective area.

After a major storm, cleanup operations will go on for multiple days. In the event of a severe storm where it is deemed necessary that additional equipment will be required, the Reeve may authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to hire individual contractors to assist the Municipality in clearing roads in a timely manner. While it is acknowledged that voluntary assistance is sometimes provided by general ratepayers or contractors in the event of a storm event, ONLY those contractors or individuals that are contacted and approved by the Municipality will be financially compensated.

All snow clearing operators (including contractors) that operate snow clearing equipment on municipal roads will be required to complete detailed map routes daily to meet insurance liability requirements. Custom work forms will be completed to ensure accurate records.

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Route Determination

When snow clearing is required, the entire route shall be done in the most efficient order. Public works employees shall follow the Union Contract and OH&S regulations for hours of work. Operations will be halted when:

- a) Service levels have been reached;
- b) Coverage time has elapsed;
- c) Conditions are too hazardous, or
- d) Reasonable accomplishments cannot be made.

The road and route determination will be decided on by the Superintendent of Public Works. The Superintendent of Public Works shall contact the councillors for each division snow clearing requirements. The roads will be cleared according to a route that allows the public works employees to complete the route with minimal amount of back tracking. Therefore, some minor roads may be plowed first in order to provide the most efficient plowing schedule. Any road that historically has not been plowed will continue to remain unmaintained during the winter months. Many factors will be considered when determining road adequacy including: school bus routes, major arteries, average daily traffic, public medical needs, availability of alternate routes, residential properties and maintainability during typical and atypical conditions.

Residential or Agricultural Properties

The RM of Leask No. 464 will provide snow clearing on all municipal roads that provide access to an assessed, non-vacant residence or a daily agricultural or commercial operation.

A daily agricultural or commercial operation is described as an operation that requires infrastructure, utilities and daily site visits by employees or owners.

Swath grazing, bale grazing and/or access to grain storage does not qualify as a daily farming operation.

At no time will RM equipment provide custom work outside the RM boundaries.

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Any request for snow clearing on non-maintained municipal roads and/or private property will only be done on the following conditions:

- a) The person shall request the snow removal by contacting the RM of Leask Office. This ensures the custom work waiver form has been signed and the regular custom work rates will apply;
- b) The Office will pass on the custom work request once they have determined a waiver is in place;
- c) The snow removal request must be located on property accessed by a maintained municipal road;
- d) If there is no snow clearing equipment in the area, custom rates will apply from the time the equipment leaves the shop. Operator's are required to ensure travel time is included on custom work form.
- e) If the snow removal request is located on any Reservation land, a waiver must also be obtained from the Reservation Land Manager.
- f) If a request is received for opening a road not normally opened in the winter, it will be opened once per year for no charge. If the road is requested to be opened again, the ratepayer will be charged custom work rates.

The request to clear snow will be at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public Works.

Although efforts will be made to alleviate the amount of snow pushed into driveways and entrances, it will be the resident's responsibility for the clearing of the windrowed snow and ice to the degree that vehicular and pedestrian traffic is not compromised. The RM devotes a great deal of resources to keep roads clear of snow and ice. It is a violation of this policy to move snow, slush or ice from private properties onto or across public roadways.

Stranded Motorists

Public works employees may assist stranded motorists in certain circumstances. Employees are required to get the required form signed and approval from the Superintendent of Public Works before assistance is provided. Public works employees will carry custom work waivers, ridging easements and waivers pertaining to removing stuck vehicles. If the public works employee is approved

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to assist the stranded vehicle, the public works employee shall ensure the stranded motorist is responsible for hooking up the towing rope to his own vehicle to limit any potential liability.

Summary of the policy

This policy has been developed to provide general guidelines for both municipal personnel and the travelling public. This policy intends to cover the majority of situations normally encountered in winter storm events. If certain situations arise that are not part of the above policy, the Superintendent of Public Works will work with the Reeve and they will deal with them on a case by case basis. Each decision to mobilize the snow clearing crew is a judgement call based on the particular weather conditions combined with past experience along with the resources available at the time and therefore may not adhere strictly to this policy.



Craig Hamilton

REEVE



Riannon Nelson

ADMINISTRATOR

DATE ADOPTED: February 11, 2021 by Resolution #50/21