

**TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
2016-17 WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN**

- ❖ Plow routes are set up to open the major traffic routes and bus routes first. After all bus routes are done, we will then plow the roads which may cause the most trouble for the public based on traffic volume, steepness, curves, etc. and continue until all roads are open.
- ❖ Given the circumstances involved with changing weather conditions, the Town of East Montpelier does not have a bare road policy. Travelers who use town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during winter conditions.
- ❖ During winter weather events the town will enforce a ban on all parking along roadsides and places where plow trucks or school buses turn around.
- ❖ The Town of East Montpelier has only four employees to do winter maintenance on over 60 miles of town highways. Each employee has a specific route, which takes about 4 hours to complete. We vary from these routes only for emergency situations (fire, ambulance, etc.).
- ❖ The town does not plow class 4 roads, private roads or private driveways. At the discretion of the Road Foreman, occasional plowing and sanding of these roadways may be done for the safety and well-being of town residents and the traveling public.
- ❖ We usually begin operations between 2:30 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. to have major highways and bus routes clear by 7:00 a.m.
- ❖ After 16 hours on the job, we are required to stop operations and get a minimum of six (6) hours of rest.
- ❖ If the town dislodges a mail box from its location during a winter event, an investigation will be made as soon as possible. If the town is directly responsible for damage, the town will replace the mail box with one standard box from the local hardware store and a 4x4 post. The town will not fix any mail box that was in poor condition or not adequately installed.
- ❖ 19 V.S.A. §1111 prohibits encroachments of the town's right-of-way without approval. Common items residents place in the town's right-of-way include trees & bushes, fences, flowerbeds, posts and stone walls. Objects in the town's right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk and the town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the statute.
- ❖ Salt will be applied to most paved roads, with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.
- ❖ Under 19 V.S.A. §1111(b) and 23 V.S.A. §1126(a) plowing, blowing or shoveling of snow across or onto a town or state highway is prohibited. Violation of this statute may be subject to a fine or penalty. A violator may also be liable for damage to property, vehicles and any undue cost to the town for removal of this snow.
- ❖ Sand will be applied to the gravel roads. Some particles in the sand mixture may be as large as ½" in size and may cause windshield damage. It is recommended that all travelers use caution and avoid following any winter maintenance vehicles too closely. The town will not pay for replacement or repair of windshields.
- ❖ In most cases, there will be no road maintenance between 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.
- ❖ As with roads, the town does not have a bare sidewalk policy. Sidewalks will be plowed, sanded & salted at the discretion of the road foreman as time allows. Pedestrians who use town sidewalks should exercise due care and reasonable caution at all times during winter months.

Adopted: October 3, 2016 by the East Montpelier Selectboard

Statement on Town Sand & Salt Pile Usage by Town Residents

The Town of East Montpelier expends over \$100,000 annually for winter salt and sand to keep the town roads safe for public travel in accord with the Town's Winter Roads Policy (see reverse side). The salt and sand are for use by the Town's highway department on the public roads, not for general use by town residents and businesses on their private driveways and parking areas.

In the interests of public safety, the Town allows very limited removal, for private personal use only, of small amounts from the Town's salt and sand piles by town residents. Over the course of a winter season, the loading of material into a few small, 5-gallon pails or similar containers by shovels is allowed. The following is strictly prohibited:

- The use of loaders or any method of material removal other than standard shovels;
- The placement of material into truck beds or any material holding means other than the containers described in paragraph 2 above;
- The removal of any material by commercial and business entities;
- The removal of any material for any use other than on your, or your family's, own personal residential property or Good Samaritan actions for the benefit of other town residents; and,
- The removal of any material during the period from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

The East Montpelier Road Foreman may deny or limit the use of the salt and sand piles at any time. The removal of any other materials from the town garage property is prohibited at all times without express permission from Town authorities.