

EUREKA COUNTY WINTER
MAINTENANCE
AND
SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Adopted by Eureka County Commissioners
On December 19, 2008

Eureka County Winter Maintenance And Snow Removal Policy

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General

The purpose of this policy is to set procedures and policies for winter maintenance on Eureka County Roads. This policy replaces all prior written or unwritten policies.

The intent of establishing this policy is to provide a uniform understanding of the priorities and procedures used to mitigate snow and ice.

Eureka County Road Department has regular work hours (6:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday – Thursday), and if a storm requires attention during weekends or holidays this would require overtime. It can be expected that service during off hours will be directed to high hazard and emergency service areas of the county, eg. hills, intersections in density populated portions of the county and emergency service facilities.

The Eureka County Road Department endeavors to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. Bare and dry surfaces free of snow and ice should not be expected after a snow fall.

Policy

- * Winter maintenance and snow removal shall be considered within practical and fiscal considerations using Eureka County personnel and equipment.
- * Snow removal will normally commence at the termination of a storm and be pursued based on the road priority in accordance with the Eureka County Road map. Snow removal during blizzard and high wind conditions is usually not effective and is not the best use of Eureka County operator and equipment resources.
- * 24 hour snow removal operations will only be implemented in emergency situations.
- * Overtime operations will be extended to emergency situations, school bus routes, airport, and priority roads indentified on the Eureka County Road Map.
- * Snow removal on County Roads by persons or entities other than Eureka County personnel or equipment shall not be allowed without the express written consent of the Eureka County Commissioners.

Winter Road Closure

Within the Eureka County Road system there are segments of roads that will not, under normal circumstances and conditions, be subject to winter maintenance and snow removal. The reason for no winter maintenance and snow removal on such designated road segments shall include one or more of the following factors:

- * Another road better and more reasonably accesses the area.
- * There are no full time residences served by the road segment.
- * Winter maintenance and snow removal due to terrain and elevation is not practical or economically feasible.

Priorities

Priorities for winter maintenance and snow plowing shall be based on the following criteria:

- * Emergency situations where no other options exist such as helicopter, snow cat, or snowmobile to expedite the response.
- * School bus routes.
- * Town sites (Eureka, Crescent Valley, Beowawe).
- * Residential areas outside of town sites.
- * Airport
- * Eureka County Main and General Roads as outlined by NRS 403.170:

NRS 403.170 Designation of main, general and minor county roads; immunity of State and county from liability resulting from use of minor county roads; reclassification and abandonment of roads; hearing.

1. The board of county highway commissioners of each of the several counties of the State of Nevada shall:

(a) Lay out and designate which of the roads, generally termed public highways, are the most important to the people of the whole county and over which there is the greatest amount of general public travel and shall designate these roads as main county roads.

(b) Lay out and designate other roads of the county over which there is general public travel, and which are generally termed county roads, and shall designate these roads as general county roads.

(c) Lay out and designate other roads which are neither main nor general county roads but have been established by usage, or were constructed for use by the public, and shall designate these roads as minor county roads. This section does not require any maintenance for minor county roads. The State and the county are immune from liability for damages suffered by a person as a result of using any road designated as a minor county road.

2. The board of county highway commissioners may, from time to time, reclassify the roads and may lay out new roads of any class, or the board may change or abandon any roads termed as public highways.

3. The designation of a new road as a main county road, as a general county road or as a minor county road, or the reclassification of any road, or the abandonment of any road does not become effective until after a public hearing is held at which parties in interest and citizens have an opportunity to be heard. At least 10 days' notice of the time and place of the hearing must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

[1: Art. 4:257:1913; 1919 RL p. 2903; NCL § 5375]—(NRS A 1979, 1173; 1993, 1399)

Winter maintenance on minor county roads will not be performed unless by order of the Board of County Commissioners.

Winter Maintenance and Snow Removal on Private Roads

Private road maintenance and snow removal is subject to the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes NRS 244.273:

NRS 244.273 Use of county's equipment on private road; conditions. The board of county commissioners of each county may authorize the use of county highway patrols and snowplows on private roads if:

1. The board declares an emergency; or
2. The board deems such use to be in the best interest of the county. The board shall not deem such use to be in the best interest of the county unless:

(a) The equipment is being used for routine county business in the area where the private roads are located; and

(b) The use of the equipment on private roads does not interfere with the normal operations of the county.

↳ If the board authorizes the use of a county highway patrol or snowplow on a private road pursuant to this section, the equipment must be operated by an employee of the county. The board may require the owner of the road to pay the county the prevailing rental rate for the use of such equipment.

(Added to NRS by 1959, 496; A 1995, 68)

Tips for Public Assistance

- * Eureka County strongly encourages neighborly assistance. Civic and volunteer groups can provide assistance with driveway and sidewalk clearing for citizens that need help.
- * Be prepared for winter weather. Watch the weather outlook and park off the street before a storm. This allows County crews to do our work without obstacles or blocking vehicles. If off street parking is not available park vehicles on the same side of the street.
- * Please remove trailers and recreational vehicles from on street parking to allow crews to plow the streets as wide as possible.
- * Eureka County crews will endeavor not to pile snow in driveways, however in densely populated portions of Eureka, residents can expect to have snow in the driveways.

Snow Plow Damage

- * Claims for damage to property outside of the right of way may be submitted in writing to Eureka County.