

GEM COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE DEPARTMENT WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY

OBJECTIVE:

To maintain the roads within Gem County in a safe and timely manner during the winter months, accounting for available funding, work force, and equipment.

Winter Maintenance is dependent upon variables not within control of Gem County Road & Bridge Department such as weather conditions and the capabilities of the traveling public who must prepare for winter driving through prudent operation practices, use of winter tires, chains, and adequate vehicle maintenance. Nothing in this policy restricts the exercise of judgement by Department field supervisors and personnel.

The Department will work cooperatively with the Sheriff Department and Dispatch for road condition updates.

PRIORITIES:

Gem County snow plows operate on a schedule designed to keep roads safe. Gem County has compiled a map system showing priority routes as follows: (see attached maps)

Priority I: Major collector routes, schools, major intersections, hills, bridges, and corners

Priority II: Secondary local roadways

Priority III: All subdivisions, dead end roads, and spur roads

DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS:

Snow removal operations will generally begin after a snowstorm has subsided, with snow to be plowed from roadways to provide two-way traffic as soon as practical. Clearing of roadway shoulders and intersections may be performed after the initial snow removal operation has been completed.

The Department focuses primary efforts on clearing travel ways and is not responsible for the berm of snow left on the driveways due to the plowing actions of a snow blade.

RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Rights-of-way along county roads are designated for snow storage and storm water. Residents shall keep all vehicles off roadways and out of the right-of-way to avoid interfering with plowing/snow removal. Garbage cans should be placed far enough off roadway so as not to interfere with plowing. Fences should be 12' to 15' from edge of oiled roadways.

Pushing snow across the road, leaving or blowing snow on the road, or similar activities create a roadway hazard, are a violation of state statutes, and can be considered a misdemeanor.

The agency reserves the right to make changes in priorities and level of service upon available budget resources as well as weather and road condition.

For more information call 365-3305
Gem County Road & Bridge Department