

BENTON COUNTY ICE AND SNOW REMOVAL DECEMBER 2004

Driving in winter weather can be treacherous due to freezing rain, ice and snow. Benton County Public Works is prepared to respond to whatever winter weather has in store for our community. We have a comprehensive Ice and Snow Control Operations Plan that will be immediately put into action at the first sign of bad driving conditions. In our effort to give the best possible service, we wanted to explain our removal plan to you and your neighbors so that everyone can travel safely or stay at home when winter weather strikes.

If you have any questions about our removal plan, please contact
Benton County Public Works at 541-766-6821.

Q: What is the overall purpose of your removal plan?

A: The Benton County Ice and Snow Control Operations plan abides by three main goals:

- provide county-wide access for emergency vehicles to as many routes as possible,
- maintain passable road conditions for school bus routes, and
- mitigate unsafe road conditions to the greatest extent possible.

Q: In the event of bad weather, which county roads will be cleared first?

A: Benton County roads will be maintained in order of their service level. Public Works has assigned each roadway a service level number (scale of 1 to 5) based on the following criteria:

- road function classification,
- traffic volumes,
- availability of alternate routes,
- steep grades, sharp curves, intersections, or other potentially hazardous areas,
- emergency vehicle accessibility,
- roads with inadequate room to turn County equipment around, and
- school bus routes.

Please use the color coded map on pages 2 -3 to determine your roadway service level.

Q: What is your policy regarding particularly hazardous roads during winter weather?

A: While our road crews will work diligently to clear all roadways according to their service level in a timely manner, we have identified some sections of roads that would unnecessarily expose the general public and our road crews to extreme risk.

For this reason, we may elect to limit ice and snow control operations in the following areas:

- Sulphur Springs Road from milepost 1 to milepost 2.31
- Bellfountain Road from the intersection of West Finley access road to the intersection with Bruce Road.

Signs explaining this policy are posted in these areas and Public Works may revise this list as necessary.

Q: Will you be clearing bike paths?

A: We will attempt to plow or sand bike paths that are attached to the roads, however, limited time and resources prevent us from plowing or sanding bike paths that are separate from the roadways.

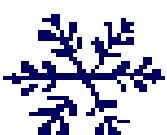
Q: What is your procedure for roads that are not maintained by Benton County?

A: Snow removal and ice control can be performed on non-County maintained roads if Public Works receives authorization. For public roads not maintained by the County, Public Works must have a key contact name who can authorize the work and the payment of services rendered. Road districts should contact Benton County Public Works (541.766.6821) with their contact and payment information.

Q: How can I report hazardous road conditions?

A: Citizens may report problems or concerns to Public Works (541-766-6821) during regular business hours (M - F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.). To report hazardous situations after hours, weekends or holidays, please call 911. However, if you are calling during on-going snow and ice operations, you can contact Public Works 24 hours a day.

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Q: During the snow and ice control operations, what do you do about parked and unattended vehicles?

A: During winter weather, parked or unattended vehicles in the road right-of-way greatly impede the snow and ice control operations. We ask that owners remove their vehicles from the right-of-way so that our equipment is able to safely maneuver on your road. The Sheriff's Office will make a reasonable attempt to contact registered owners of vehicles left in the right-of-way if time of day and work loads permit. If contact of the owner cannot be made and a vehicle must be removed to perform our services, vehicles in the right-of-way may be towed at the owner's expense. Damages sustained to vehicles in the right-of-way are the responsibility of the owner and not Benton County.

Q: Will you be plowing or sanding driveways if time allows?

A: Driveways cannot be plowed by Public Works and these areas are the responsibility of the property owners. We also ask that owners do not move snow onto the roadway, especially after our equipment has cleared your road.

Q: What about property items that cannot be moved such as fences and signs?

A: Throughout lengthy and difficult snow removal efforts, there may be a property item unintentionally damaged by our equipment and we apologize. Unfortunately Public Works cannot cover these damages to landscaping or structures damaged in the right-of-way. We will, however, repair or replace mailboxes hit by County equipment during our work. We also ask that owners assist us by moving other items that can be easily taken from the right-of-way such as garbage cans and recycling containers. We appreciate your assistance during this process.

Q: When can we expect the clean-up process to start?

A: Once the storm is over, we will perform residual sweeping or flushing of sand from the roads and attached bike paths. We follow the same service level priorities in this process as used for snow and ice control operations.

Benton County Road Service Levels

Snow plowing and road sanding activities will be accomplished by priority as outlined in the following levels. For all levels, efforts may be discontinued if severe weather such as blizzards make conditions unsafe for Public Works employees. If you have a question regarding the service levels, please call Public Works at 541.766-6821.

Level 1/First Priority:

Level 1 roads are typically major transportation routes, such as arterial or collector roads, carrying moderate to high volumes of traffic. Some steep roads serving residential areas which require early sanding or plowing for public safety access may also be included. Level 1 also includes roads serving public facilities, such as water and sewage treatment.

Level 1 vehicle lanes, attached bike paths, and shoulder with snow pack and abrasives (sand) will be cleared within 10 working days after the storm ends.

Level 2/Second Priority:

Level 2 roads are typically collector routes carrying moderate volumes of traffic. However, some of these routes may have been assigned a level 3 priority if there is an alternate route available and/or the road has a low resident density.

Level 2 vehicle lanes, attached bike paths, and shoulders with snow-pack and applied abrasives (sand) will be cleared within 20 working days after the storm ends.

Level 3/Third Priority:

Level 3 roads are minor collector routes or high residential areas that carry moderate to low volumes of traffic. However, some roads may have been assigned a level 4 priority when the road has a low resident density.

Level 3 vehicle lanes, attached bike paths, and shoulders with snow-pack and applied abrasives (sand) will be cleared within 40 working days after the storm ends.

Level 4/Fourth Priority:

Level 4 roads are minor collector routes or resource collectors and carry low to very low traffic volumes. Some roads that receive more traffic volumes may be assigned to this category because alternate routes are available, no residential access, or a prohibitive level of effort is required to maintain the road.

Level 4 vehicle lanes, attached bike paths, and shoulders with snow-pack and applied abrasives (sand) will be cleared with 40 working days after the storm ends.

Level 5/Last Priority:

Level 5 roads are un-constructed, primitive, or seasonal-use only routes that carry very low volumes of traffic. Level 5 roads may be gated with limited access to the general public for safety. All Level 5 roads have no residential access.

Contact Numbers

Benton County	541-766-6821
City of Corvallis	541-766-6916 or 541-754-1711 (info line)
City of Albany	541-917-7600
State Highways	800-776-7718
City of Philomath	929-3579 or 766-6911

Also visit our web site to view this plan
www.co.benton.or.us/pw/index.html





Ice and Snow Removal Plan

PRIORITIES

- LEVEL 1 —
- LEVEL 2 —
- LEVEL 3 —
- LEVEL 4 —
- LEVEL 5 —

