

PERKINS COUNTY
SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

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Introduction

Perkins County Highway Department Snow Removal Procedures

The following information is intended to serve as general guidelines for addressing snow removal operations in Perkins County. It reflects the dual goals of efficiently clearing County roads while protecting the safety of the public and the county employees.

This manual contains general statements of policies and procedures. It should not be read as including the fine details of each policy or procedure. In addition, the policies and procedures may not be applied in all cases.

Perkins County may change or add to the policies and procedures from time-to-time. There may be situations where amendments are made before this document can be updated.

Policy Enforcement and Implementation

Perkins County Highway Department Snow Removal Procedures

To the extent that any previous rule, regulation, policy or past practice, written or unwritten, is in conflict with the provisions of this policy, such is hereby withdrawn, voided and all personnel should conduct themselves in the conformity with the policy. This policy is not intended to create any duty to any individual member of the public or to protect any particular or circumscribed class of persons. All or parts of this policy may be affected by at least one or more of the following situations that will delay all or some of the services provided:

1. Equipment breakdowns
2. Vehicles disabled in deep snow
3. Weather so severe as to cause crew to be called in from roads, i.e. whiteout conditions
4. Equipment rendered inadequate by the depths of snow or drifts
5. Crew breaks, and breaks required for refueling, refilling of material spreaders, and installing chains or new blades, and
6. Unforeseen emergencies

Policy Statement

Perkins County Highway Department Snow Removal Procedures

It is the policy of Perkins County to initiate snow removal operations to maintain traffic as long as visibility is above minimum and weather conditions are such that plowing can be done safely and effectively.

Responsibilities and Considerations

Perkins County Highway Department Snow Removal Procedures

The Perkins County Highway Department Superintendent or his assignee has the responsibility for initiating all snow removal actions using his best judgment and considering several factors, including but not limited to:

1. Prevailing weather conditions
2. Amount of snow fall
3. Type of snow fall
4. Areas affected and
5. Emergency or extreme conditions

The Perkins County Commissioners, Highway Superintendent and Crew Foremen will have the responsibility, in a declared emergency, to coordinate all emergency situations.

General Practices

Perkins County Highway Department Snow Removal Procedures

1. When the snowfall is at least 3 inches, but less than 6 inches, all hard surface roads will be plowed during normal working hours.
2. With a snow fall of 6 inches or more, all gravel roads as well as hard surfaced roads will be plowed during normal working hours.
3. A snowfall of 6 inches or more may result in plowing activities being conducted before and after normal working hours, as well as weekends and holidays.

Priorities:

- a. Paved Roads: C-09, C-09A, C-03, C-25, C-02, C-19
- b. School Bus routes on gravel
- c. Mail Routes
- d. Remaining County Roads
- e. Unorganized Township Roads (as needed)

County snow crews will not clear private driveways or private property, except in an emergency. Snow placed in a driveway or on sidewalks by County plows where driveway or sidewalk meets the road is the responsibility of the property owner to remove.

Sanding Policies

Perkins County Highway Department Snow Removal Procedures

The Perkins County Highway Department has been directed to sand areas designated by the County Commission, such as:

- Bridge approaches
- Curves
- Steep hills
- Hard surfaced road intersections on the County Highway system

Other sites may also be sanded, including:

- High traffic volume areas
- Accident or emergency vehicle danger areas, as identified by the County Sheriff's Department; and
- Other locations identified by the Highway Superintendent or Highway Department personnel

The Perkins County Highway Superintendent or his assignee has the authority to sand before and after normal working hours, due to adverse weather conditions.

Release

The undersigned does hereby forever release and discharge the County of Perkins, its officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, and causes of action and liability for personal injury or property damage arising from the rendering of emergency towing assistance on the date shown below:

SIGNED: _____

ADDRESS: _____

VEHICLE LICENSE #: _____

DATED: _____

This form is to be distributed to all County Highway Shops for use in vehicles that may encounter stalled or disabled vehicles. It should be signed by the owner operator of the vehicle before any towing activities are undertaken.