

Town of Bethany Highway Department
Winter Operations Policy
Snow and Ice Control Plan

Winter Storm Operations:

The Town of Bethany Highway Department understands that travel during winter storms can be difficult and trying for many motorists. New England is famous for its variety of weather conditions that come in many different extremes.

The primary responsibility of maintaining a safe and accessible transportation network rests with the Town of Bethany Highway Department. However, successful battles against the onslaught of winter also require the assistance and cooperation of all citizens. This Plan briefly describes how together we can minimize the impact of winter storms.

Department Responsibility:

The Highway Department is responsible for almost 70 miles of roads, Town-owned parking lots, firehouses and the library. The roads and parking lots are divided into six separate routes. Our Department begins pre-treating all six routes simultaneously once snow, sleet or freezing rain begins to fall.

Snow Plowing:

When two inches of snow has fallen and more is expected, the Department moves into its snowplowing operation and begins "opening" roads for emergency vehicles and routine traffic with primary routes being a priority. We will continue with this procedure throughout the duration of the storm. However, at times when snowfall is significant, several inches may accumulate before a snow fighter gets a chance to "reopen" a roadway. Also, there may be times when operations are temporarily suspended because conditions are too dangerous, even for trucks equipped with chains, plows and sanders. Once the storm has abated, the town must begin to push back the snow to the curb line and cleanup the intersections. Our crews are well trained and will remain on the job for the duration of the storm. Crews will continue to monitor all roads for icy spots and snow drifting across roadways. ICE B GONE product will be applied to assure all riding surfaces and braking areas remain drivable.

Blocked Driveways

All snowplows angle the same way, to the driver's right, and when plowing they will push the snow in front of a driveway. The property owners are responsible for access to their own driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until the Highway Department crews have done their final cleanup of the road.

Private Plowing

Like every other town in Connecticut, the Town of Bethany prohibits snowplow contractors from plowing snow from private driveways or parking lots onto town roads. This practice is dangerous and impedes the town's snow removal efforts. If there is no alternative to pushing snow onto the roadway, the private snowplow driver must plow-off the snow left on the road by re-plowing it until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but should be no worse than when the private snowplow driver began work. Causing hazardous roadway conditions is a violation of State and Local Codes. Violators may be held liable and subject to fines.

Parking Bans

From November 1st through March 31st, parking is prohibited on all Bethany roads and parking lots from sundown to sunrise and during all snow and ice storms.

Mailbox Damage

The Town of Bethany does not assume any responsibility for replacing mailboxes or posts that are within the town's right-of-way unless they are physically hit by our equipment. Usually a paint mark or truck tire tracks supply evidence of a mailbox strike. The town will not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts that fall from the force of plowed snow. Mailboxes and posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snowplowing, including the force of the snow and slush pushed from the street onto the roadside.

Mailboxes should not extend out over the traveled portion of the road. If the road is curbed, it should not extend past the curbing. When you install a curbside or roadside mailbox, make sure it is easily accessible to the mail carrier. By regulation it should be 41" to 45" from the ground surface up to the inside floor of the mailbox. The door should be set back 6" to 8" from the front face of the curb or road edge. Mailboxes should not impede vehicular traffic or sightlines in any way.

The town only repairs or replaces mailboxes and/or posts that are actually struck by our equipment. If this should happen, the mailbox damage will be inspected by a representative of the Highway Department. If approved by the Highway Department it will be replaced by a standard mailbox and/or a standard 4x4 post. If you believe you have a legitimate claim, please call the Highway Department at 203-393-1555 and leave a message with the best time and way to contact you.

Winter Driving Tips

We all know that winter weather can be stressful. Please remember that snow operation procedures take time, crews generally work long hours and do the best they possibly can to safely and quickly clear the roads for safe travel. Here are some helpful suggestions to make winter storms more tolerable for everyone.

-Clean snow and ice from your vehicle, especially windows and lights, before you leave your driveway. This makes it possible for you to see and for others to see you.

-Take your time; allow extra time to reach your destination. Travel during winter conditions may take you at least twice the normal driving time. Plan accordingly and drive safely.

-If you need to call the Highway Department about a hazard, please do so at 203-393-1555. Calls may also be made to the Selectman's Office at 203-393-2100 ext.1 100 during the normal workday hours of 9AM-4:30 PM.