

**BOARD of COMMISSIONERS  
RICE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

---

**RESOLUTION #14-038**

**SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota winter weather can impact the safety and use of County roads; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety of the public is a concern to Rice County; and

**WHEREAS**, Rice County seeks to have all County roads passable as soon as possible after a snow or ice related weather event so that critical facilities remain accessible; and


**WHEREAS**, a policy relating to the removal of snow and ice from County roads will provide the public with information to assist in their assessment of driving conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, such a policy is necessary to safeguard equipment, County personnel, and the public.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rice County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Snow and Ice Removal Policy as presented.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2014.

**RICE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Galen Malecha, Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

  
Tony Murphy, Rice County Administrator



# Snow and Ice Removal Policy

(Amended 9-23-2014)

<b>Department Contacts:</b> Highway Sheriff's Office	<b>References:</b> Snow and Ice Removal Policy, dated 1-12-2010 Minn. Stat. §§160.072, 160.2715, MN Rules 8818.0100
<b>Resolution Number: 14-038</b>	<b>Effective Date: September 23, 2014</b>
<b>Related Documents:</b>	

## POLICY STATEMENT

Rice County seeks to have county roads passable within a reasonable amount of time following a snow or ice related weather event. Due to limited resources, the County cannot assure a completely bare road and will not normally sand entire areas of roadway. Motorists are reminded to exercise caution and to drive with care. It may not be possible to drive the legal posted speed limit at all times; motorists are required by law to drive according to conditions.

This policy supersedes any and all previously written and unwritten policies of the Rice County Highway Department regarding snow and ice removal on roads under county jurisdiction.

## 1. General Standards

- A. The County will dispatch plows, provided it is safe to do so and resources are available, when one or more of the following conditions occur:
  - 1) Snow accumulation of two inches or more (lesser amount for wet, heavy snow)
  - 2) Drifting snow that interferes with travel
  - 3) Icy conditions which seriously affect travel
- B. The decision to plow or sand a county road or portion thereof will be made by the Rice County Engineer, Maintenance Director or designee.
- C. Factors that can delay snow and ice removal include severe cold, strong winds and limited visibility.
- D. Operations will be halted when it is deemed too hazardous to continue.
- E. Travel advisories issued by the Minnesota State Patrol and/or the Rice County Sheriff will not apply to Rice County snow and ice removal crews.
- F. Sand, abrasives or other melting agents may be applied at problem locations on paved roads, including intersections, curves, hills and bridges.
- G. To facilitate the plowing of County roads, citizens are urged not to park on the roadway until removal crews have had an opportunity to plow the roads.

## 2. Emergency Requests

- A. The Rice County Sheriff's Office should be contacted for plowing for emergency purposes.

- B. Plows will not be shifted from regular routes unless there is a fire or emergency medical event and the dispatch is coordinated through the Sheriff's office.

### **3. Personal Property**

- A. Mailboxes damaged during snow removal operations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Only those mailboxes located and installed in compliance with Minn. Stat. §160.072 and Minn. Rules 8818.0100, and damaged by direct contact with county equipment will be repaired at the County's expense.
- B. Removal of vehicles from ditches or snow banks is the responsibility of the owner.

### **4. Residential Plowing**

- A. Plowing of private property is not allowed.
- B. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §160.2715, it is unlawful for snow or ice to be plowed from driveways and deposited on a county road.