

Town of Dolores, Colorado  
Snow Removal Policy



February 14, 2011

## **Background**

The Town of Dolores Maintenance Department is responsible for maintaining 7.24 miles of roadway within the Town limits. This includes the removal of snow accumulations on the Town's streets, business district, public parking lots, subdivisions, and public park areas during the snow season. It should be noted, however, that the Town is not responsible for state highways, county roads, private roads and driveways.

Plowing and removal of snow shall be directed and supervised by the Maintenance Supervisor or designee.

The Town maintains a fleet of: two (2) motor graders, one (1) backhoe, one (1) 11-yard dump truck, one (1) 7-yard dump truck, one (1) plow/sander with 12 foot blade and one(1) Loader with 4-yard snow bucket.

The Town does not use de-icing salts or chemicals in the sanding process. The Town assumes no responsibility for damage to landscaping or other objects placed in the right-of-way, which could be damaged by plows.

The Maintenance Department genuinely appreciates calls from the public advising us of weather/road conditions or emergencies. It is impossible to clear all roads immediately. Citizen patience and cooperation during weather emergencies is greatly appreciated.

## **Policy**

### **Commencement of Snowplowing**

Snow plowing will generally commence when 5" of snow has accumulated within Town. If the snow is wet and heavy, plowing operations may be initiated sooner.

Town staff will typically begin plowing at 5:00 AM but may begin at any time depending on the timing of threshold snow accumulations. In instances where heavy accumulations are expected, discretion will be exercised as to the timing of plowing operations.

### **Priority of Streets**

The snowplowing priority begins with the school zone and then moves to the business district and finishes with residential streets, parking lots and parks. During the snow removal process intersections are cleared and sanded and some windrows are immediately moved in higher traffic areas.

As a general rule the Town operates a four person plow team and a three person removal team. The fourth driver is hired on an as needed basis to speed the plowing process while clean-up generally takes longer and is accomplished with the Town's three maintenance employees.

The school zone begins with 14<sup>th</sup> street which opens access to our maintenance facility so staff can get in to work. Central Avenue, Hillside Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street are then plowed including immediate removal of the windrow on Central Avenue between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> as well as the school bus parking lot which is not Town property but is done as a courtesy.

Then a single pass with a grader is done on Hillside Avenue between 11<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> on the way to the business district. Then 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Streets are plowed north of Highway 145 before clearing 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Riverside Avenue and back to 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

While the grader is doing its work, the plow truck is simultaneously windrowing Central Avenue and clears Porter Way. When Central Avenue is finished, the plow gets 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets between Highway 145 and Central Avenue before heading back to plow Hillside Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> Streets between Highway 145 and Hillside Avenue.

The grader then heads to clean 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets north of Hillside.

The backhoe and loader are also simultaneously clearing intersections and alleys as well as clearing the windrow on south 4<sup>th</sup> Street before moving to the Community Center which is also done as a courtesy as it is not owned by the Town.

The plow truck then clears Merritt Way before plowing 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Streets south of Highway 145.

The grader and plow truck then begin clearing Hillside Avenue between 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets before plowing 16<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> Streets. While this is occurring the grader windrows Eric and Breanna Drives and pushes 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

After these are cleared, both grader and plow truck begin clearing alleys and intersections.

Cleanup and hauling begins once all streets are passable. The hauling priority is similar to the plowing priority beginning with the business district and then residential areas.

### Sidewalk Snow Removal

In accordance with the Dolores Municipal Code, Chapter 12, Section 12.05.010 *Removal of Snow and Ice*, it shall be the duty of the owner, tenant and occupant of any premises abutting or adjoining any public sidewalk to remove all snow and ice from such sidewalk within a reasonable time after every snowfall in order to give safe passage to pedestrians. Such removal shall not be accomplished through the use of salts on the concrete as deterioration of the sidewalk will result. Sanding shall be permitted.