

INTRODUCTION

Winter maintenance/snow removal is an important function of the Chaffee County Road and Bridge Department. Our crews are dedicated to maintaining the 300 miles of road under Chaffee County's jurisdiction. This responsibility does not include State Highways or streets in incorporated towns and private roads. If a snowfall occurs during the night or if road conditions from a previous storm so warrant, the Supervisors and Crews have been directed to mobilize and begin plowing in an effort to have significant portions of the system cleared prior to start of daily activities or the traveling public. In order to monitor weather and road conditions and to accept calls from other agencies, the public dispatchers are on duty continuously 7 days a week, 24 hours a day in the Sheriff's Department.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

The County road right-of-way averages 25-30 feet from center line of roadway. This area is needed for snow storage, drainage and signage. Chaffee County assumes no responsibility for damage to landscaping or other objects placed in the right-of-way since it could be damaged by the plows.

PRIORITIES

Due to the county road miles within Chaffee County, some roads may not be plowed until late afternoon or the next day. All portions of the system are cleared continually on a priority basis with the major arterials and school bus routes cleaned first, then collectors and minor roads next. Extreme blizzard conditions may result in the closing of affected portions of the county road system by Chaffee County Officials. Under

these conditions roads that are closed are traveled "at your own risk". For their safety, the County snow removal crews are directed to cease operations in those areas subjected to heavy blizzard or "white out" conditions until the storm subsides. Announcements regarding road closings are made through the broadcast media.

DRIVEWAYS

Homeowners and residents are responsible for maintaining their own driveways and parking areas. We regret that snow must be pushed off the road into driveways and crews endeavor to refrain from blocking driveways and mailboxes, but there is not other choice. When clearing your driveway, either yourself or with the aid of a private contractor, be aware that it is unlawful to push or throw the snow onto or across the roadway. Your snow must be disposed of on your own property. Snow pushed into the road not only makes plowing more difficult crews, but can cause a dangerous obstacle in the roadway or a nuisance to your neighbors.

PARKING AND CUL-DE-SACS

Parking problems are compounded by winter snow and a little extra care should be taken to avoid problems. The roads and cul-de-sacs must be plowed when it snows and parked cars in the right-of-way make this impossible to be done adequately. It is in fact unlawful to park on county roads. Your residence is required to have adequate parking. If roads and cul-de-sacs are obstructed by parked cars, the area may not get plowed or the cars may be towed at the owner's expense.

PHONE CALLS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Road Department genuinely appreciates calls from the public advising of weather/road conditions or other emergencies. Sometimes this is the primary method by which we are alerted to problems that may exist. However, calls making demands on certain areas or insisting on special treatment do not benefit a "Spirit of Cooperation" to complete the plowing operation. Your patience during weather emergencies is very much appreciated. It is simply impossible to clear all roads immediately.

DRIVING TIPS

A few precautions will help ensure that you arrive to work or play safely. Take a little more time to get there on winter roads. Poor visibility, icy corners and heavy traffic may make it necessary to reduce your speed on the road. Courtesy and patience will go a long way. Proper preparation of your vehicle is very important for mountain driving. Windshield wipers and tires should be checked and replaced as necessary. Take a little extra time in the morning to clean the snow from all windows and lights on your car. Not only will you be able to see and be seen, but it is the law. Common sense is the best prevention. Plan ahead, concentrate and drive safely.