

**TOWN OF TEMPLETON
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**2011-2012
WINTER SNOW POLICY**

**A Resident's Guide to Winter Snow
Removal Operations and Procedures**

The Templeton Highway Department is pleased to issue "A Resident's Guide to winter Snow Removal Operations and Procedures". The intent of this pamphlet is to advise Templeton residents of the Highway Department's winter snow plowing and sanding objectives and to obtain your assistance so that Town roads can be restored to normal conditions as promptly as possible after a winter storm. Your cooperation is essential if the Highway Department is to achieve this objective. With your assistance and patience, we will be able to provide you with the important functions of our winter maintenance operation i.e., opening roads, keeping traffic flowing and to restore roads to safe traveling conditions quickly. We at the Highway Department thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

WINTER PARKING BAN

Annually, on November 15th, the Town's winter parking ban goes into effect and continues through April 15th. This ban prohibits the parking of motor vehicles upon any way on such manner as to impede the removal or plowing of snow or ice, except vehicles parked in accordance with approved regulations governing all night parking between the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. during the above stated time period. This parking ban allows the Highway Department to plow and open roads in a more efficient and timely manner.

ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES

Illegally parked vehicles are the biggest obstacle to effectively removing snow from the roadway. Vehicles that violate the winter parking ban will be ticketed by the police and carry a \$15.00 fine. Vehicles that directly hamper Highway Department snow removal efforts will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense (approximate cost-\$90.00). Your cooperation with the parking ban will be greatly appreciated. Questions regarding parking restrictions should be referred to either the Templeton Police Department at 978-939-5638 or the Templeton Highway Department Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 978-939-8666.

SNOW PLOWING OPERATIONS

The following is a general description of Templeton's snow removal plan. As you are aware each storm is different, but we try to follow our snow removal policy as closely as possible. **OUR SNOW & ICE REMOVAL PROGRAM ENTAILS THREE STEPS:**

1. The beginning of a snow storm
2. During the snow storm
3. Following the snow storm

Step 1:

When a snowstorm begins, the Highway Department responds by sanding and salting the main roads, hills, and bus routes. Sanding these roadways serves two main purposes: it prevents the snow from bonding and compacting to the pavement and it keeps traffic moving. Five (5) sanding trucks are used for this operation. Residents can pick up free sand and salt mix at the entrance to the Highway Department.

Step 2:

Plowing operations begin when at least two inches of snow accumulates on the ground. Eleven (11) Highway Department vehicles are equipped for plowing. Each vehicle is assigned to pre-determined routes and will remain in this pattern until the snow subsides. The main objective during the snow storm is to keep the roadways passable. At the end of the storm, the plows begin to widen the roads by pushing back the snow to the edge of the pavement. Residents may want to wait until the roads have been widened out before clearing the entrances of their driveways. **If snow needs to be pushed back further due to heavy buildup on the side of the road, the Highway Department has three days after a storm in which to do so.** Please be advised that snow must not be shoveled or plowed “back into the street” from the residents driveways (Town Bylaw, Article XDVIII, Section 1 through 5) This creates a hazard to traffic and requires our staff to return to clean it up at the residents’ expense. This action could also result in a fine not exceeding twenty dollars for each offense.

The Highway Department staff is well trained and dedicated to plow “around the clock”, if necessary, to keep the roads open and passable. If a plow truck is riding with its plow up, please do not be misled. They may be returning to the garage for fuel or repairs. Please be advised that all State roads are maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

Residents should not be concerned if they do not see their roadway plowed during the early part of a snow storm. The Highway Department follows an assigned route plan where main roads and hills are plowed first. Just please be patient, all town owned roads will eventually be plowed.

Another area of concern is mailboxes. We do not “deliberately” knock over or damage mailboxes. Most mailboxes are not damaged by the vehicle itself but by the snow that is thrown from the plow. But, at times, with the combination of reduced visibility during a snowstorm and snow banks, it is not always possible for our drivers to see a mailbox in time to avoid it. Remember, anything installed within the town’s right-of-way (i.e., fence, mailbox, etc) is placed there at the owner’s risk. Hence, residents are encouraged to place mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the pavement.

Step 3:

Once the snowfall has stopped and all roads are cleared of snow, post-storm sanding and salting commences. All roads are again sanded and salted to improve traction and melt the remaining snow and ice.

RESIDENTS CAN HELP

Residents can assist the Highway Department during a snow storm by heeding these suggestions.

1. Observe all winter parking bans.
2. Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
3. Remain off the road during snowstorms unless absolutely necessary.
4. Do not allow children to make snow forts at the edge of road.
5. Do not plow, blow or throw snow back into the roadway.
6. Before final cleanup of your driveway, check the road. If it does not appear to be widened out, a wing plow will return to plow again, and may push snow back into the entrance of your driveway. Doing this might keep you from clearing your driveway more than once.
7. During plowing operations, some lawns will inadvertently be torn up. If this occurs, the Highway Department will repair the lawn in the spring. To help keep this from occurring, we recommend installing reflectors at the edge of your lawn as a guide for our plow operators. If lawn sprinkler systems are installed please keep them away from the edge of the road. The Highway Department is not responsible for repairing or replacing them if damaged during snow plowing operations. Be aware that if you decide to install sprinklers near the edge of the road, they could be on town property.
8. Finally, please have patience. Snow plowing is a time consuming and arduous job covering approximately 72 miles of road. Some residents will have their roads plowed first and some will be last, but all town roads will be cleared.

The Highway Department is devoted to providing the residents with dependable snow removal in the shortest time possible. With your cooperation we will all benefit during a snowstorm.

If you have any questions concerning the Snow Removal Policy, please call 978-939-8666. We will try to assist you in any way possible.