

Town of Halifax Vermont

Highway Department Winter Maintenance Plan and Policy

I. Purpose

The Halifax Selectboard has established this winter operations plan and policy to clearly state priorities for the clearing, maintenance and repair of town-owned roads to ensure the safe and efficient passage of vehicles through the town during the period of time between November 15 and April 30th of each year.

II. Plowing

1. The first priority for plowing will be to open the major traffic and school bus routes. This includes the following roads, listed alphabetically:

Branch Road	Brook Road	Collins Road
Green River Road	Hanson Road	Hatch School Road
Hubbard Hill Road	Jacksonville Stage Road	Moss Hollow Road

Note that VT Route 112 is maintained by the State (VTRANS District 1); not the Town of Halifax.

2. After the major routes are cleared, the second priority for plowing will be the remainder of the roads at the discretion of the Highway Supervisor.
3. The Town of Halifax has five employees to do winter road maintenance on approximately 64 miles of town highways. Each employee has a specific route that takes approximately five hours to complete. Generally, these routes will vary only for emergency situations, such as for fire or ambulance calls.

4. The town will enforce No Parking restrictions at all places where the plow trucks and school buses turn around, including those occupied during winter weather events.

III. Use of Sand or Salt

1. The Town of Halifax does not have a bare roads policy. Travelers who use town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during changing weather conditions. Plan for your own safe travel times.
2. Salt will be applied to paved road with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary.
3. Sand will be applied conservatively to gravel roads. With the use of sand in winter maintenance material some particles may be as large as 9/16 inches in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or town trucks too closely. The town will not pay for any vehicle repair such as replacement of windshields.

IV. General Provisions

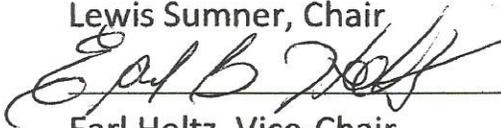
1. Maintenance operations during winter storm events shall begin approximately at 4:00 am and continue until routes are clear. After 14 hours on the job, road department personnel are required to stop operations and take a minimum of six hours of rest.
2. In most cases such as major snow storms, there will be no winter maintenance between the hours of 10:00 pm and 4:00 am.
3. Objects in the town's right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk and the town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the state's statutes. Common items are trees, fences, flowers, stone wall, etc. placed in the town's right-of-way.

4. The town is not responsible for damage to mailboxes.
5. State law (23 V.S.A. § 1126a) prohibits plowing, snow blowing or shoveling snow across on onto town or state highways. Violators may be subject to a fine or penalty and may be liable for damage to property, vehicles, and any undue cost to the town for removal of this snow. In addition, the actual cost for the equipment and labor used to remove this snow may be charged to the private property owner, with a minimum charge of one hour of personnel and equipment costs.
6. So that they may reasonably fulfill their on-call and overtime requirements during the winter to keep the roads open for us all, the road crew may plow their own or other crew member's driveways using town equipment, for any crew members residing in the Town of Halifax.

The foregoing Policy is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Halifax, Vermont, this 14th day of October, 2014 with amendments approved on the 7th day of October, 2014 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.



Lewis Sumner, Chair



Earl Holtz, Vice-Chair



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