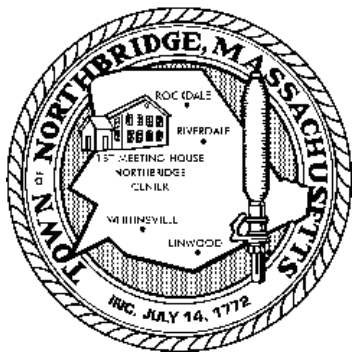


Town of Northbridge
Department of Public Works
2011 - 2012
"SNOW & ICE" PROGRAM
"Moving Forward"



The Town of Northbridge - Department of Public Works (DPW) is pleased to make this **"SNOW & ICE 2011 - 2012 PROGRAM"** brochure available to you the taxpayers of Northbridge. The main objective of this brochure is to enhance community awareness concerning snowplowing operations. Our mission is to efficiently return our 78-miles of roads to "normal conditions" after each winter storm event. Your support and patience is necessary and greatly appreciated. The DPW "Snow & Ice Program" involves a four (4) part process:

- When the Snowfall Starts
- The Snowfall Continues...
- After the Storm...
- The Community Can Help

When the Snowfall Starts

Snowplowing operations begin when snow accumulates two (2) inches, or when forecasts indicate that it will. Over 24 Town and private contractor plows can be deployed and assigned to pre-determined routes. When the snowfall starts, the DPW immediately begins to sand and salt the roads to prevent the snow from being compacted and frozen on the road surface. Top priority is given to the Town's main streets and bus routes.

The Snowfall Continues...

The drivers plow their assigned routes to "open-up" each road in a pre-determined sequence. If the intensity of the storm warrants, the plows remain in the same pattern until the storm subsides. At the end of the storm, the trucks begin to "widen-out" all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back beyond the curb line, then clearing the intersections. It is important to note that residents may want to wait until the road has been plowed, and "widened-out" before shoveling the entrance to driveways. DPW's policy is to plow the full width of the streets, "curb-to-curb" during each storm. Again, our initial responsibility is to keep the mainlines and mainlines and bus routes open and

safe for travel. These roads are the key to maintaining a steady flow of traffic.

Our talented DPW Snow & Ice Staff are "well-trained" and "dedicated" to work "around-the-clock", keeping the roads open and passable. Please do not be misled by plow trucks riding with their plows up. They may be going in for fuel, repairs, headed to another assigned route or are not employed by the Town.

An area of concern is mailboxes. To reduce the possibility of damaging a mailbox, our plow truck operators are trained to avoid them. However, experience has shown that with reduced visibility during a snowstorm, combined with the height of the snow banks, it is not always possible for a driver to see a mailbox in time to avoid a collision with the "wing" or the heavy snow that is thrown by the moving plow. Any installation within the road right-of-way (including a mailbox), is placed there at the owner's risk. Therefore, property owners are encouraged to put mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the roadway pavement. It is strongly recommended that mailboxes and posts be inspected to insure they are properly secured and the posts are not rotten.

After the Storm...

After the snowstorm has ended our crews must continue to monitor all roads for icy spots, drifting snow, etc. At this time, an application of sand or salt is usually applied to all road surfaces. Some roads will receive an application of salt and calcium chloride to melt the remaining snow and ice.

The Community Can Help

The Community can enhance the snow plowing operation by following these suggestions:

- Make certain that your vehicle is ready for winter driving.
- Adhere to winter parking bans.
- Park vehicles off the road or in your yard during a snowstorm
- Reduce speed and drive cautiously.
- Do not drive in winter snowstorms unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not throw, plow or blow snow onto the road. This creates a hazard to you and to others and requires the DPW staff to return to clean up at your expense.

- Plows are designed to throw snow up to 30-feet.
- Sidewalk traffic is not advised during a storm event.
- The plowing of sidewalks typically begins directly after the assigned road snow plow routes have been completed.
- Before your final driveway cleanup, check the street. If your street is not clean “curb-to-curb”, a plow truck should return to plow again.
- Please understand that the Town cannot shovel or plow out the end of your driveway, nor can the Town plow private property.
- Finally, please be patient. Snow plowing is an arduous and time-consuming job covering 78-miles of Town roads.
- Some residents will have their roads plowed "first" and some must be "last".
- ***“The workers continue until the job is done”.***

The Northbridge Department of Public Works strives to provide the safest streets and roadways in the shortest period of time for the citizens. With your cooperation and commonsense we will all benefit.

Please feel free to contact the Northbridge Department of Public Works if you should have any questions related to any snow storm event.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

James Shuris, P.E., MBA
Director of Public Works

Robert Van Meter
DPW Highway Superintendent

Northbridge DPW “Snow Fighting Team”
“Moving Forward”

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

DPW General Information: (508) 234-3581

DPW Highway Division:
(508) 234-0816

Snow Plowing: (508) 234-3581

Pot Hole Repairs: (508) 234-3581

DPW Sewer Division:(508) 234-2154

Whitinsville Water Company:
(508) 234-7358

Police General Information:
(508) 234-6211

Fire General Information:
(508)234-8448

Police & Fire Emergency:
911