



WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Pend Oreille County
Public Works Department

The Road Division of Pend Oreille County sands and snowplows about 480 miles of maintained County Roads from three maintenance facilities: Newport(D1), Usk (D2) and Lone(D3). Road maintenance personnel provide snow and ice control services during the winter season. Equipment available includes: snowplows, sander trucks and graders. The road crews will work during normal work hours 6:00 am-2:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Snow and ice control priorities will be collector and school bus routes first, then to other roads as time permits.

We are encouraging everyone to prepare and plan ahead for winter driving conditions.

PLOWING

Snow plowing of non-maintained County roads, easement/private roads and driveways will not be performed by County crews.

BERM ACROSS DRIVEWAYS

The County's primary objective is to keep all roads open for safe travel. Whenever possible the operators try to minimize the size of the snow berm across driveways and private roads. However, the blade can only hold so much snow. The County does not have the resources available to remove snow berms from driveways and private roads.

SANDING

The County uses sand mixed with road salt to improve traction on ice and to help the sand adhere to the road surface and prevent storage piles from freezing.

SNOW STORAGE

Whenever possible the snow is stored behind the ditch line on the right-of-way. After the initial plow out graders will return and push snow back with a wing blade making room to plow succeeding snowfalls when time permits.

YOU CAN HELP

Winter road maintenance is expensive, dangerous and time consuming.

There are several ways the public can help make the County's job safer and more cost effective:

- Children love to watch snow removal operations- the large equipment, noise, lights and activity can be very exciting. Although operators are glad to have people watch, everyone should be cautioned to stay a safe distance away. The concentration required for efficient snow removal combined with the noise and types of equipment used means the operator may not see small children close by and an accident could result. Please encourage children not to build tunnels, forts or play in snow berms along the roadsides.
- Residents who remove snow from their driveways or sidewalks are reminded that State Law prohibits placing snow or ice on any public road or sidewalk in a manner that impedes vehicle or pedestrian traffic or makes it unsafe.
- If residents have vehicles parked on a roadway and there is a snowfall, please move it immediately. If you don't it will most likely be bermed in and it will be your responsibility to shovel it out or the vehicle may be towed away if it creates a traffic hazard.
- Any snowplowing obstructions such as rocks, fences, or planters within the roads right of way, should be removed for winter. Not only can they be destroyed by snow removal operations, they can do substantial damage to snow plows. Owners of such obstructions are at risk should the County's equipment be unnecessarily damaged.
- Please place garbage cans a least ten feet inside driveway from the roadway edge. This will prevent hitting them or operators having to veer around them and not completely plowing the route.
- Snow from resident's property should not be stacked over the ends of culverts or drainage structures. Rapid warming cycles in winter could result in blocked ditches being unable to drain and local flooding could occur.
- Mail boxes are occasionally damaged during snow removal operations. Damage due to poor construction, such as rotting posts or improper location, will be the responsibility of the property owner/resident.
- Snow removal operations require the use of large, heavy, and noisy equipment used during periods of darkness usually accompanied by limited visibility caused by falling snow. Pend Oreille County operators are carefully trained and safety is stressed at all times. Drivers of automobiles should follow at a safe distance.

For further information, please call the Road Division's Hot line at (509) 447-6464

or Public Works Main Office (509)447-4513, M_F 8 am to 4:30 pm.

Please see www.accuweather.com for Current Conditions in the County