

PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
NEWPORT, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-3

Re: Governing Emergency Load Limitations on  
County Roads, the Issuance of Special Motor Vehicle  
Permits to Use on Weight Restricted County Roads,  
and Fixing Penalties for Violations Thereof

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 46.44.080, Pend Oreille County may prohibit or restrict vehicles operations or vehicle weight whenever any county road, by reason of rain, snow, climatic or other conditions, will be seriously damaged or destroyed unless the operation of vehicles thereon be prohibited or restricted or their permissible weights reduced (such periods hereafter referred to as "load sensitive periods"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Pend Oreille County, Washington, upon recommendation of the County Engineer, has deemed it advisable to place certain restrictions on various county roads during load sensitive periods to protect such roadways from extensive damage; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Pend Oreille County convened in regular session at their office in the County Courthouse at Newport, Washington on the 7th day of January, 2013 at 1:30pm and held a hearing to consider the matter of emergency load limitations on county roads; and

NOW, THEREFORE

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the following policy on Emergency Load Limitations on County Roads is hereby adopted:

COPY

# EMERGENCY LOAD LIMITATIONS ON COUNTY ROADS

## SECTION 1 PURPOSE

It is hereby declared that the policy of the Board of County Commissioners is to:

- A. Establish general emergency load limitations upon county roads during load sensitive periods.
- B. Establish special load limitations for school buses, motor trucks transporting perishable commodities or commodities necessary to the health and welfare of county residents, and motor vehicles providing services necessary for health and welfare, when such emergency load limitations are in effect.
- C. Request the Washington State Patrol's and/or Washington State Department of Transportation and/or Pend Oreille County Sheriff's office assistance with weight control enforcement.

## SECTION 2 SCOPE AND CONSTRUCTION OF TERMS

The definitions in this resolution shall control the meaning of terms used herein where no definition is expressly stated herein, a term shall have that meaning clearly indicated by, or reasonably implied from, the context in which such term is used.

## SECTION 3 DEFINITIONS

- A. "Authorized Emergency Vehicle" means any vehicle of any fire department, police department, sheriff's office, coroner, prosecuting attorney, Washington State patrol, ambulance service, public or private, which need to be classified, registered, or authorized by the State Patrol.
- B. "Commodity necessary for health and welfare" means anything provided to the public which is necessary to provide essential shelter, food or fuel to people and animals.
- C. "County Engineer" means the county engineer, the county director of public works, or his/her designee.
- D. "County Road" means every public highway or part thereof, outside the limits of cities and towns, and which has not been designated as a state highway and which has been accepted by the board and is under the jurisdiction of the county.
- E. "Gross Weight" means the total vehicle weight included load.

- F. "Tire Width" in the case of pneumatic tires, means the maximum overall normal inflated width, as stipulated by the manufacturer, when inflated to the pressure specified and without load thereon.
- G. "Vehicle" includes every device capable of being moved upon a public highway and in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway.

#### SECTION 4 VEHICLE CLASSES

A. In making such allowances, vehicular traffic shall be divided into the following classes:

1. Class I: Shall include school buses, emergency vehicles and all passenger vehicles except buses, including sedans, station wagons, light trucks and sport utility vehicles licensed for less than 16,000 GVW.
2. Class II: Shall include vehicles transporting food products for retail stores, restaurants, raw milk, home heating oil and fuel and buses other than school buses. Shall also include vehicles necessary for immediate repair and/or maintenance of public or private utilities, or garbage vehicles essential for the health and welfare of local residents.
3. Class III: Shall include vehicles transporting animal feed to the farm and agricultural products to market (includes livestock). Shall also include vehicles transporting farm, logging and industrial equipment for repair and building materials to/from business concern or point of use.
4. Class IV: shall include all other vehicles not specifically mentioned in Classes I through III.

B. All Class I vehicles including unloaded (fixed or removable load) pickup type vehicles are exempt from the permit requirements as set forth herein.

#### SECTION 5 EMERGENCY LOAD LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTION STAGES

A. When the County Engineer determines that, during load sensitive periods, vehicles whose gross tire loads exceed those described in this section will seriously damage or destroy a county road, the County Engineer may impose limits on vehicle weights, speed and hauling periods, except for authorized emergency vehicles.

B. There will be three (3) stages of load restrictions enforced as follows:

Stage 1 (One): Free and unrestricted hauling of legal loads. All oversized or over licensed GVW weight loads will require a hauling permit.

Stage 2 (Two): All vehicles in Classes 2 through 4 will be allowed to haul under conditions described below and as posted by the County Engineer:

1. Maximum load of Licensed GVW regardless of tire size or number of tires.
2. Speed limit 30 MPH
3. Hauling allowed from 12:00 AM midnight to 9:00 AM only
4. No permits are required

Stage 3(Three): All vehicles in Classes 2 through 4 will be allowed to haul under conditions described below and as posted by the County Engineer:

1. Load Limitation

Conventional Pneumatic Tires		Tubeless or Special Pneumatic Tires with .5 Marking	
Tire Width	Gross Load Each Tire	Tire Width	Gross Load Each Tire
7.00*	1800 lbs.	8-22.5*	1800 lbs.
7.50	1900 lbs.	9-22.5	1900 lbs.
8.25	2000 lbs.	10-22.25	2250 lbs.
9.00	2250 lbs.	11-22.5	2500 lbs.
10.00**	2500 lbs.	11-24.5**	2750 lbs.

\* And Under \*\* And Over

2. Speed limit 30 MPH
3. Hauling allowed from 12:00 AM midnight to 9:00 AM only
4. No permits are required

C. The emergency load limitations imposed by this section shall become effective upon the erection and maintenance by the County Engineer of signs designating the load limitations (visible to the operator of a vehicle as he/she enters the restricted area), and shall remain in effect until the load sensitive period ends and such signs are removed by the County Engineer.

D. Where a specified hardship occurs, variances from the weight limitations may, at the discretion of the County Engineer or his representative, be issued on a case-by-case basis. Such variances may allow a vehicle to exceed the gross weight limits of this section, subject to specified times, speeds and routes of movement needed to protect the county roads from serious damage.

#### SECTION 6 SPECIAL OVER RESTRICTED WEIGHT PERMITS

Special over restricted weight permits may be issued during stages 2 & 3 restrictions for loads in excess of allowable loads in Section 5 by the following method:

- A. Any applicant shall apply in person to the County Engineer's Office or Road District Shop during normal business hours. The applicant must be the vehicle operator, owner, or other responsible party in all cases.
- B. A permit issued only when the applicant has provided all necessary information.
- C. The following conditions will be evaluated by the Department of Public Works in the consideration of permit applications for Classes II thru IV:
  - 1. Vehicle Class
  - 2. Number and frequency of trips requested.
  - 3. Other permits granted for the same route.
  - 4. Availability of alternate routes.
  - 5. Climatic conditions including depth of frost penetration, depth of unfrozen boundary layer and saturation of base and subgrade material.
  - 6. Past performance of roadway section/route regarding tendency to exhibit potholing and breakouts under heavy loads.
  - 7. Degree of overload over restricted load limits.
  - 8. Current road surface condition.
- D. A permit will be issued for a specific vehicle and must be carried in said vehicle at all times while traveling a County Road on which weight restrictions have been imposed. Failure to have the required permit in the vehicle and available for examination shall be considered a violation of State Law and County Regulation.
- E. No permit shall be issued for vehicles transporting weights in excess of normal legal loads.

#### SECTION 6 MAXIMUM SPEED PERMITTED ON POSTED ROADS

Except where applicable law specifies a lower speed, the County Engineer may post a reduced speed limit as low as (20) miles per hour upon any county road under emergency load limitations. Speed limit may be directed toward truck traffic or all vehicles.

#### **SECTION 7 PENALTY**

Any person violating any emergency load limitation on a county road during a load sensitive period shall be in violation of this Resolution. A violation of this Resolution shall constitute a traffic infraction under the provisions of RCW 46.44.105, RCW 46.44.100, and RCW 46.44.080, subjecting the violator to the monetary penalties provided in RCW 46.44 and 46.61.

#### **SECTION 8 ACTION FOR DAMAGE**

Any person operating a motor vehicle upon any county road in violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall be liable under RCW 46.44.110 and RCW 46.44.120 for any damage caused to such county road as the result of such violation.

#### **SECTION 9 SAVINGS**

If any provision of this Resolution or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Resolution or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

#### **SECTION 10 REPEALER**


Resolution 97-8 shall be rescinded and be replaced by this Resolution concerning Emergency Road Limitations on County Roads.

ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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Mike Manus, Chair

  
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Karen Skoog, Vice-Chair

  
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Stephen Kiss, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk of the Board