



P.O. Box 1, Pocopson PA 19366
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www.pocopson.org

**POCOPSON TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION 2014-15
WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PROVISION FOR WINTER HIGHWAY SAFETY TO THE TRAVELING PUBLIC AND PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR SALTING, PLOWING, PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND VEHICLES DURING SNOW REMOVAL

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Township's winter maintenance program is to provide winter highway safety to the traveling public in the most reasonable, efficient and effective manner. To perform this service, it is essential that the salting and plowing operations be conducted in a professional manner, equipment is properly maintained, materials are in sufficient stock, and personnel are trained and properly instructed in the methods and procedures to be followed. The Township maintains approximately 27.7 miles of Township Road and 13.45 miles of State Roads in accordance with the PennDOT Winter Maintenance Contract.

SALTING PROCEDURES

The Township uses approximately 600 tons of salt in the average winter. This amount varies depending upon the severity of the winter season. The Township uses a mix of calcium chloride and salt exclusively and not a mixture of anti-skid. The following procedures will be implemented in the salting phase of any winter operation.

1. The spreaders will be calibrated for the proper application rate.
2. Personnel shall not overload the trucks.
3. Higher traffic volume roads are given first priority.
4. Plowing will not begin immediately after the application of salt. Enough time will be allowed for the salt to start its melting action.

PLOWING

Snow plowing equipment should always travel in the direction of traffic flow. The speed of the plow is normally 15 miles per hour (MPH) but will vary with the amount and type of snowfall, the condition of the roadway and traffic conditions. Efforts to minimize damage to private property are a key factor in regulating vehicle speed. The Township will not be responsible for damage to private property that is in the right of way. Snowplowing will not begin until approximately 2" of snow is on the roadway and the application of salt has been given an opportunity to work.



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1. First priority routes are those designated by the posted list approved by the Roadmaster. These have the highest traffic volume, steep hills, near schools, emergency facilities, and public institutions.
2. Those routes of the second priority are the streets with signalized intersections, stop intersections, school bus routes, and bus stops.
3. Third priority streets are those in the residential developments

The Township will not plow roads that are not dedicated. The Roadmaster or designee, may change priorities or remove roads altogether unless an agreement is in place beforehand.

Plowing procedures are as follows:

Every truck is assigned to a specific area of responsibility and this is of first priority for the vehicle. After salting operations are concluded and plowing commences, one pass is made in each direction on every street. Cul-de-sacs shall be plowed one pass in and one pass out during the initial phase of the operation. Once the first phase of the operation is completed, the driver will contact the Roadmaster or designee to advise him/her of the current status, and, if assigned, will assist other drivers in their areas. Upon completion of the initial phase of the plowing operation, the cycle continues until the storm is over and roads are clear.

RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

Each property owner can also assist the Township in providing an improved level of service by observing the following suggestions:

1. One of the most important ways to assist the Township is by not parking vehicles in cul-de-sacs and roads. Plows cannot get into a turn-around when cars are parked on the street. Please keep your vehicle off the street until the street has been completely cleared off.
2. If possible, wait until the street is plowed before clearing driveway openings.
3. Never shovel or plow snow out into the streets and roads. Snow shoveling into the street causes a hazard by freezing and causing bumps in the roadway. Be a good neighbor and shovel snow away from the street and if applicable, the sidewalk.
4. For safety reasons, shovel out fire hydrants if they are located on your property.
5. Motorists need to have a greater awareness of Township vehicles salting or plowing snow. The Township vehicle is performing an emergency operation and motorists should not interfere or impede the plow in any way. In the course of clearing the street, the Township vehicle may behave in unexpected ways, such as backing up a short distance against traffic.



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MAILBOXES

In all cases, the Township avoids damaging property. However, mailboxes are often placed in the township or state legal right-of-way, which means that the Township is not liable for damages to mailboxes caused by snow removal operations. Property owners should ensure that their mailbox rests on a firm support so it will be better able to withstand the "windrow" of snow from the plow.

GRASS (TURF) DAMAGE

Typically, this damage occurs during heavy snowfalls requiring the use of loaders and larger snowplows. However, the damage is generally confined to the legal right-of-way. While it is unsightly, the frequency and severity is proportional to the snow depths. The Township does not repair turf damages or remove deposited debris within the right-of-way limits on a routine basis. If property owners insist on reimbursement for conditions that occur beyond the legal right-of-way, the property owner should submit a written request to the Roadmaster with a copy to the Treasurer.

All Resolutions, or parts of Resolutions conflicting with any provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed and of no force or effect from this date.

ENACTED AND RESOLVED this 22nd day of September, 2014. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.