

# **160 MESA COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY**

## **160 - Snow and Ice Control Policies**

Mesa County will maintain all designated County roads in as near normal driving conditions during winter months as resources and personnel can provide under given weather conditions. It is recognized that some roads will not be maintained during winter months due to traffic usage. Roads or streets within incorporated cities are not included.

### **PRIORITIES AND LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL**

1. Clear all school bus and mail routes as soon as practical. Remove as much snow as feasible from high side of super elevations that cause icy spots due to melting and freezing.
2. Obtain as much width as necessary.

#### **Level of Service:**

**Class one Roads** - All primary roads including arterials, minor arterials, and collector roads designated as school bus routes having over 750 A.D.T.

Mesa County will maintain 24-hour coverage during and after storms until near normal driving conditions are restored and two-way traffic is established. Division forces will apply abrasives to snow-packed intersections, icy grades and curves, or elsewhere, when required to keep traffic moving safely as deemed necessary by the Maintenance District Managers.

**Class two Roads** - Secondary roads that are designated school bus or mail routes having 250 to 750 A.D.T. also may include roads within subdivisions.

Class two roads will be addressed as necessary once all class one roads have been opened. Normally abrasives will be applied to intersections, icy grades and curves or elsewhere, as deemed necessary by the Maintenance District Managers. Plowing snow in subdivisions may be impractical due to housing density and lack of space to store snow.

**Class three Roads** - Secondary roads having 50 to 250 A.D.T., rural roads and roads and streets in subdivisions.

Class three roads will be addressed once all class one and class two roads have been restored to near normal driving conditions. Normally, abrasives will be applied to intersections, icy grades and curves or elsewhere, as deemed necessary by the Maintenance District Managers. Plowing will be done on a case by case basis as directed by the Maintenance District Managers.

**Class four Roads** - Secondary roads having less than 50 A.D.T.

Select roads are not maintained and are posted "**No Winter Maintenance.**" Dates when maintenance is not performed are also posted and begin from October 15, through June 1. A map is on file with MCDOT identifying roads not scheduled for winter maintenance. Motorists using these routes do so at their own risk. Those wishing year-round maintenance may have the roads privately maintained by making written request to MCDOT. If approved, the request may have special conditions imposed by the Division.

In the event MCDOT historically removed snow along a County road providing access to existing residences, this service will continue. However, if new residences are constructed after the date of this policy or maintenance is desired beyond the point where winter-maintenance ends, services will not be extended.

### **Emergency Response for Rescue Operations:**

When directed by the Mesa County Sheriff, MCDOT will open County maintained roads posted for "no winter maintenance" to permit reasonable access of emergency vehicles to disabled parties. The charge for this service is \$75.00 per hour (four hours minimum) for each piece of equipment and operator, starting from the time of notification to the completion of the operation. Holiday and weekend rates are \$85.00 per hour. Private roads or lanes leading away from County maintained roads will not be opened unless specifically directed by the Mesa County Sheriff. Charges for restoration or reclamation of disturbed areas where damage occurs due to opening activities will be charged over and above the hourly rates mentioned above. MCDOT will maintain time records for the work completed.

### **Definitions:**

1. *24-hour coverage* shall mean around the clock.
2. *Near normal driving conditions* shall mean a driving condition ranging from dry road to a condition that includes snow-pack and icy roadway that has had abrasives applied.
3. *Abrasives* are aggregate materials having a maximum size of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter and are used to provide traction to icy or snow-packed road surfaces.
4. *Two-way traffic* shall mean that traffic is able to move in both directions on a two-lane or divided roadway. Approximately 20 feet wide on a two-lane road and approximately 10 feet wide each direction on a divided road. May include moving both directions of traffic to one side of a divided road.
5. *Maintenance District Managers* shall mean the District Manager responsible for the specified maintenance districts A, B, or C. A= Mack, Fruita, Appleton, Redlands, Glade Park; B= Clifton, Fruitvale, Kannah Creek, Palisade, Gateway; C= Mesa, DeBeque, Collbran area.
6. *A.D.T.* shall mean the average two-way daily traffic volume. It represents the total annual traffic for the year divided by 365.

7. *Opening roads for emergency vehicles* shall mean opening a road to permit emergency vehicle passage having an average width of ten feet with a riding surface sufficient to accommodate four-wheel drive vehicles.

Amended February 3, 2021