

Town of Star Valley Ranch Snow Policy



Town of Star Valley Ranch
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Snow Control

General

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to set Policy, Process, and Maintenance Levels for snow control for the Town of Star Valley Ranch and communicate these expectations to the citizens of Town of Star Valley Ranch. The goal of the Public Works Department is to maintain mobility on roadways to vehicles properly equipped for winter driving. This does not mean pavement will be bare and dry, but passable.

The objective of snow control is to return or maintain road surfaces to safe as possible winter driving conditions as soon as feasible within the limitations of this policy, our limited resources, and weather conditions. With proper use of storm forecasts, staff, equipment, and sanding materials, the desired result can usually be attained. However, flexibility is needed to adapt to the variety of circumstances and conditions during the heavy winters in the Town of Star Valley Ranch.

Policy Considerations

In developing the policies for how to best undertake winter maintenance activities, several factors must be considered including the following:

- Public Safety – car accidents, fire station
- Funding – Operate within budget.
- Resources – The availability of staff, equipment and subcontractors as determined by the Public Works Director.

Policy Statement

The snow objectives of the Town are to:

- Maintain its priority roadways.
- Provide adequate mobility and safety for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving and prudently operated within reasonable time after the end of a weather event.
- Provide cost effective snow and sanding services.

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The town has a commitment to provide effective and efficient winter maintenance to its residents. However, it must be noted that the following circumstances may prevent or delay snow and ice removal.

- Equipment breakdowns.
- Severe weather that risks the safety and wellbeing of the maintenance crews.
- Equipment rendered inadequate by the depths of the snow.
- Parked or stalled vehicles and trash receptacles that restrict access.
- Unforeseen emergencies.

Definitions

Maintenance Route – Winter maintenance routes for plowing and sanding.

Parking – parked or abandoned vehicles on any town road right of way will be towed.

Vehicles properly equipped for winter driving – For the purposes of this plan, a four-wheel drive vehicle or a two-wheel drive vehicle with snow tires and or tire chains.

Levels of Maintenance

Prioritizing streets is a critical component of any Snow and Sanding Plan. It provides a systematic way to dispatch resources as each storm dictates. Streets will be maintained according to the priority. These roadways are major arterial streets. Also included are streets that service the fire station. Streets with chronic icing problems at hills, curves and intersections that are likely to cause traffic accidents.

Winter Storm Operations

Responsibilities

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Town roadways and Town owned parking lots. The Public Works Director will monitor the forecast and make appropriate adjustments to accommodate each event.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the repair and maintenance of snow removal equipment before, during and after an event.

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Snow Control Procedures

Hours of Work

When an event is not expected, the Public Works Department will have a typical shift of 7:30 am to 5:30 am M-Th. On the weekends and holidays, a designated on-call person will be available. This will ensure there is uninterrupted coverage for an unexpected event.

When a snowstorm is predicted, the Public Works Director will adjust the crew's schedule so that the correct number of plows can be dispatched continuously for the event.

The weather forecast and the predicted intensity of the storm will dictate the required level of staffing for each snowstorm.

Preparation

The intent of this plan is to establish consistent protocols that will be used throughout the season. However, each meteorological condition presents different difficulties that will dictate exactly how the town will respond to a given event. A variety of factors are considered when preparing for an upcoming event including:

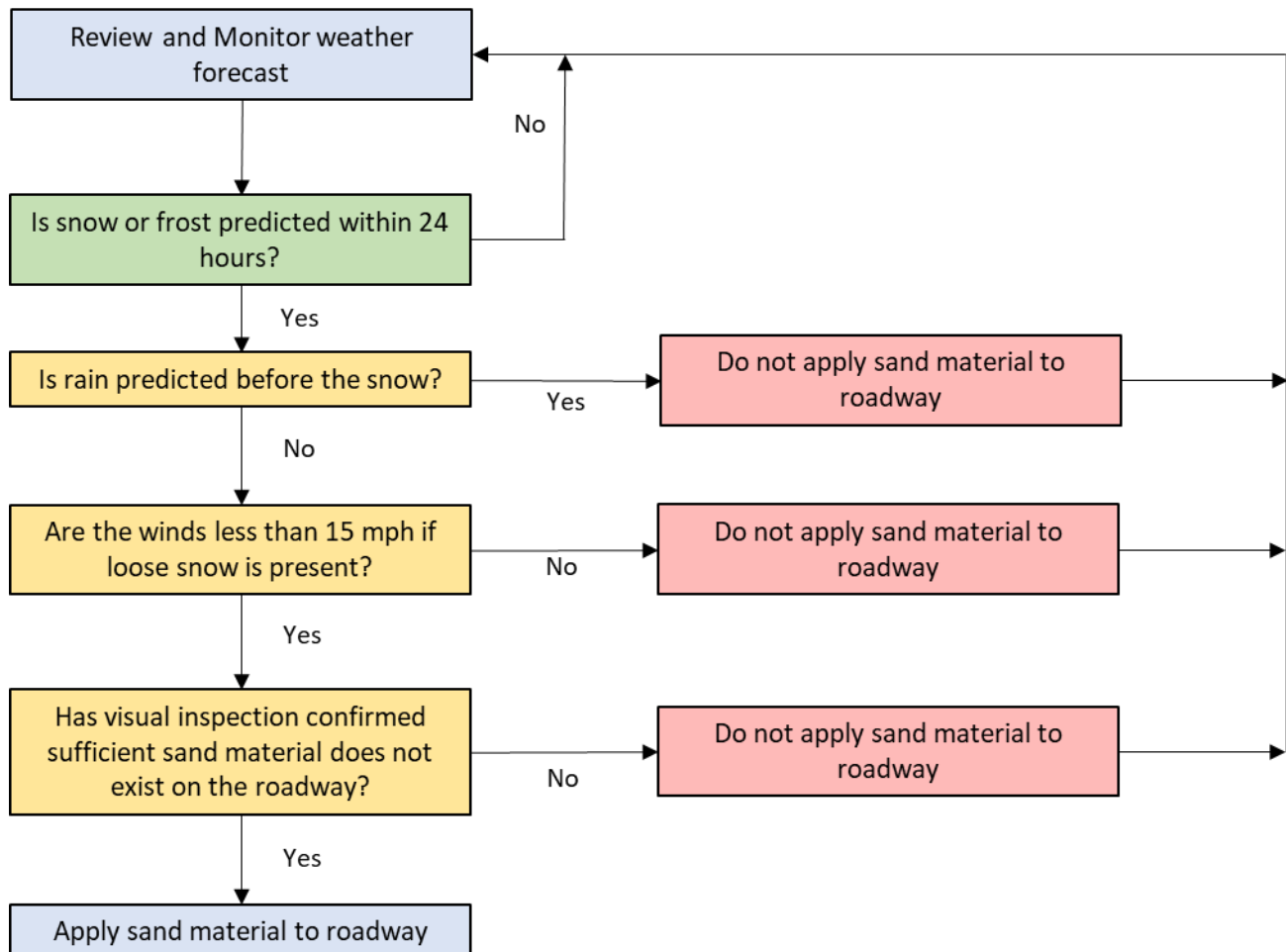
- Rate and accumulation
- Moisture content
- Presence of sleet and freezing rain
- Temperature before, during, and after storm
- Wind velocity
- Time of day
- Storm duration
- Intervals between storms

Between storms the snowplows shall be fully fueled and maintained. All equipment should be kept indoors, if possible, otherwise it shall be plugged in when nighttime temperatures are expected to be below 35 F. Equipment shall be inspected daily before use, after each shift, and at least every 3 days if not in use. The Public Works Director will make sure there is always an adequate supply of sand.

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The Public Works Director will, at his discretion, direct crews to apply sand to the streets to prepare for an expected storm if the conditions are appropriate. The following flow chart is used to determine if the application of sand is warranted.

Sanding Decision Flow Chart



Sanding and Plowing

The town uses sand mix for ice control. The required materials and application rates are determined by the Public Works Director based on current and future weather conditions in accordance with supplier recommendations and acceptable town practices. Sanding in warmer weather is not effective on slush.

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Snow removal will not begin until the ground is frozen and there is a snow cap on the road to prevent damage to equipment and road surfaces. Crews will begin snow removal under the direction of the Public Works Director based on observed road conditions.

The Public Works Director will implement methods and procedures to monitor weather conditions to begin operations as soon as possible after accumulation begins and snow can be effectively plowed. All snow will be moved from the center of every road with the grader outward to the road right of way unless directed otherwise by the Public Works Director on specific routes. The other pieces of equipment will follow the grader and will be used for road clean up.

Snow maintenance typically occurs on non-snow days but is not limited to those days. Snow storage maintenance consists of moving back berms and banks and grading roads to prevent ice buildup.

In case of a severe storm, the Mayor and Public Works Department may declare a Snow Emergency by notifying the Town Council, Administration and 911 dispatch. Notification will be sent to residents utilizing town email, text, website, and Facebook.

Equipment

The town's standard equipment which is used for snow plowing is shown below.

- Caterpillar 140M Motor grader with wing
- 2 – Caterpillar 938 Front-end loader with v-plow
- Ram 3500 pickup with v-plow and sander
- Chevy 2500 pickup with v-plow and sander
- Ram 3500 pickup with v-plow
- Caterpillar 299D skid steer with hydraulic snowblower
- Henke hydraulic snowblower for front-end loader

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Communication Plan

Objectives

It is the objective of the Town to communicate important information about snow and sanding operations to residents as needed.

Internal Communications

During any severe weather incident, information from briefings and updates will be disseminated by the Public Works Director to all internal elected officials and staff.

External Communication

The town will utilize town email, text, website, and Facebook. The town strongly encourages all residents to sign up for these communication programs.

The administrative staff will record all citizen concerns and notify the appropriate department when required.

Sidewalks, Driveways, Parking

Sidewalks

The town maintains the public sidewalks located adjacent to town property.

Driveways

The resident, business owner, or property owner is responsible for opening driveways that are plowed closed by town snowplows. Snow from plowing driveways or opening driveways shall not be plowed into the street or across the street. Placing snow in a public street is a violation that is subject to enforcement by the Special Municipal Officer. Property owners and or residents who hire private contractors will be responsible for the actions of the private contractor.

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Parking

No parking is allowed on any town road, or road right of way. Vehicles left on the town road or right of way will be towed.

Authority

The Town of Star Valley Ranch Municipal Code.

[Title VII Traffic Code - Chapter 72 Snow Removal](#)

