

SYLVAN TOWNSHIP – CASS COUNTY
ICE AND SNOW ---“TAKE IT SLOW”
SNOWPLOWING POLICY (Revised 12.2019) - Exhibit A

Emergencies should be reported to Cass County Sheriff's office, 218-547-1424.

All other calls: 218-746-3652 (Sylvan Town Hall). After hours there will be a voice message with an “On-call Supervisor” name and number you can call.

The Township does not assure a completely bare road and it will not sand entire sections of roadway.

WHEN DOES PLOWING BEGIN?

The Township usually dispatches plows after a snowfall has stopped. Exceptions maybe made during extended snowfalls, but the plow will not be sent out in hazardous conditions.

If the snowfall stops during the night or early morning, plows will be dispatched at that time. Weekend plowing will be handled the same way.

WHAT GETS PLOWED?

The Township has 60 miles of two-lane roads to maintain.

WHAT ARE THE PLOWING PROCEDURES FOR ICE AND SNOW REMOVAL?

Plowing shall be done as efficiently as possible for snow events. Phased plowing may be called for in major snow events or extended snowfalls. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis in consultation with a Supervisor.

Snow-Plowing:

- 1) Make the road passable by cleaning one lane in each direction.
- 2) Widen the lanes to the edge of the shoulders & cul-de-sac. Sanding takes place at problem locations, including intersections, curves, hill and bridges. Salt mixture varies with temperature and road conditions.
- 3) Clean-up, during which ice and slush are removed and the sun is allowed to do its work.

WHAT ABOUT PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY PLOWING?

Mailbox Damage: No property located in the Township Road Right-of-Way will be compensated for. Damage resulting from snow flying from the plow is not the responsibility of the Township or Road Contractor. The Township will repair, at its expense, only those mailboxes that are properly located, and installed (swing away supports), which were damaged by actual contact with contractor's equipment.

MN STATE STATUTE §160.21

160.21 SNOW REMOVAL.

Subdivision 1. **Agreements.** Road authorities, including road authorities of cities, may contract with each other for the construction and maintenance of, or removal of snow from, any or all highways under their supervision. Such road authorities may also contract with any agency or political subdivision of the state, including but not limited to school districts and public sanitariums, for the removal of snow from publicly owned lands thereof.

Subd. 2. **Removal from private property.** The road authority of any county or town may remove snow from private property upon payment of not less than the cost thereof when such snow removal does not unduly delay or interfere with the removal of snow from public highways under its jurisdiction.

Subd. 3. **Disposition of money.** All money received for snow removal shall be paid into the respective funds provided by law, or set aside, for highway or street purposes.

Subd. 4. **Emergency snow removal.** Any road authority including road authorities of cities may remove snow from any road or highway in cases of emergency.

Subd. 5. **Deemed employees of hiring authority.** All persons while engaged in snow removal or other work as provided in this section shall be deemed for all purposes the employees of the road authority hiring them.

Subd. 6. **Uncompleted subdivisions.** (a) A road authority, including a statutory or home rule charter city, may remove snow from unopened or private roads in uncompleted subdivisions containing five or more lots, upon adoption of an annual resolution finding that the subdivision developer, due to general insolvency or pending foreclosure, is unable to maintain the roads and that public safety may be jeopardized if the access of school buses, public works vehicles, or authorized emergency vehicles, as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 3, is obstructed. Snow removal activities are limited to streets reasonably necessary for access by these buses or vehicles.

(b) Snow removal under this subdivision does not constitute:

(1) acceptance of the road from the developer by the road authority for public use;

(2) the opening of the road to public use; nor

(3) a use, repair, or maintenance of the road sufficient for the purposes of dedication of roads under section 160.05.

(c) The road authority may impose a reasonable and proportionate charge on all properties within the subdivision for services provided under this subdivision. These charges, if unpaid, may constitute a lien upon the properties within the subdivision and may be collected as a special assessment as provided by section 429.101 or by charter.

(d) Where a road has been maintained pursuant to this subdivision, the road authority with jurisdiction over the road, and its officers and employees, are exempt from liability for any tort claim for injury to person or property arising from plowing, maintaining, or otherwise working on the road and from traveling on the road and related to its maintenance or condition. This paragraph does not apply to a claim for injury that is affirmatively caused by a negligent act of the road authority or its officers and employees.

Township Residents are reminded that it is **unlawful** to plow snow from their driveways onto or across Township Roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass, causing a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Piles of snow increase the chances of snow drifting onto the roadway. As snow is plowed from Township roads, operators leave as little snow as possible across driveways.

WHAT ABOUT PARKED VEHICLES?

Township residents are reminded to remove parked vehicles from Township Roads to assist in snow removal.

Sylvan Road Supervisors