

Ogemaw County Road Commission Winter Maintenance Guidelines

Winter maintenance operations will be conducted based on a priority system on the County and State Trunkline roads.

- On a normal work day Monday thru Friday when winter weather conditions prevail, the Ogemaw County Road Commission (OCRC) work crews are sent out to their designated work areas in one of four districts in the county or to an assigned state highway.
- The crews concentrate on the county primary and local hard surfaced roads and all of the state highways. In addition to maintaining and repairing the roads on the county system, the OCRC also maintains all state routes in Ogemaw County under a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).
- Once the hard surfaced roads have been plowed the crews will begin work on the gravel roads and subdivision streets.

Generally, plowing, salting/sanding operations begin on the state highway system and the primary and local hard surface roads when slippery conditions exist or the snow begins to accumulate. Once these roads been addressed, the primary and local gravel roads are then plowed.

The OCRC **does not** have a bare pavement policy. When winter maintenance is performed on county roads, we concentrate our salt and sand applications mainly on **intersections, hills and curves**. However, all our drivers are aware of specific sections of roadway that need additional attention regarding material application. The other portions of the county road system are snowplowed, however, drivers can and should expect to encounter random icy spots and should adjust their speed accordingly. Our policy is designed to provide the best service possible for all users. Unpredictable weather, conditions, and limited financial resources make it impossible to ensure absolutely clear roads at all times.

After Normal Working Hours:

- The scheduling of overtime both after normal working hours and on the weekend depends on a variety of factors including road conditions, weather conditions, nature of the storm, time of storm, etc. When threatening weather is in the forecast, the night patrolman or the on-call individual will monitor and evaluate road conditions and contact personnel to work if the situation calls for it.
- The “after hours” work is concentrated on the state highway system with limited work on the county primary road system, unless conditions warrant work at other locations when either icy conditions or 4 or more inches of snow has accumulated.

We at the Road Commission encourage you to drive defensively and at a **safe speed** according to the conditions. Even with the best service, driving conditions may still be hazardous in the winter months, **Please Slow Down**.

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Winter Patrol Begins:

- Night patrol begins in November each year and continues until April. The position is entirely funded by the MDOT and its purpose is to monitor and respond to winter conditions on the state highway system. This patrolman works from 9:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. daily, seven days a week. He is responsible for making a determination of the necessity to work people throughout the night and early morning hours based on need and safety to the motoring public. This crew is funded in total by the MDOT and concentrates its time and efforts on the state highway system, however the crew may perform winter maintenance on county roads, at the Road Commission's expense.

Emergency Situations:

- The County Central Dispatch Department handles after hour emergency calls and directs them to the duty Road Commission personnel.
- The OCRC will respond to emergency situations verified by the County Central Dispatch Department if roads are impassable anytime of the day or night. We will cooperate with police, fire, and emergency service vehicles to the best of our ability to provide access during emergency situations.

Damage to Mailboxes and posts:

- A mailbox in good condition can generally stand the force of snow plowed against it. In most cases, damage occurs during the plowing process because the posts are aged and unable to withstand the force of wet, heavy snow. The Road Commission will replace mailboxes and/or posts with standard boxes and posts, if they are damaged as a result of the Road Commission's winter maintenance operations. Contact the Road Commission and your claim will be investigated.

Abandoned Cars:

- Cars abandoned in the traveled portion of the road are subject to be removed if they interfere with the snow plowing operations or the traveling public. This will be done through the County Sheriff's Department at the owner's expense.
- Road Commission vehicles and personnel are not authorized to push or pull cars that have become stuck or disabled. All Road Commission vehicles are equipped with two-way radios and will give assistance via radio communication if required.

Plowing your Driveway:

- By state law **MCL 257.677A, "Obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush prohibited."** Residents are **prohibited** from plowing snow, ice or slush onto or across roadways. In addition, snow must **not** be piled in such a way as to obstruct motorist's vision.