

- Before your final driveway cleanup, check the street. If the street is not “widened-out”, a plow truck should return to plow again.
- Please understand that the Town cannot shovel or plow out the end of your driveway, nor can the Town plow private property.
- Finally, please be patient. Snow plowing is an arduous and time-consuming job covering 84-miles of Town roads.
- Some residents will have their roads plowed "first" and some must be "last".
- ***“The workers continue until the job is done”.***

The Spencer Highway Department strives to provide the safest streets and roadways in the shortest period of time for the citizens. With your cooperation and common sense we will all benefit.

Please feel free to contact the Spencer Highway Department if you should have any questions related to any snow storm event. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

Steven Tyler
Superintendent U&F

Eben Butler
Highway Foreman

***Spencer “Snow Fighting Warriors”
“Getting Things Done”***

**IMPORTANT CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Website: www.spencerma.org

**U&F General
Information:** (508) 885-7515

Highway Department:
(508) 885-7515

Snow Plowing: (508) 885-7515

Pot Hole Repairs: (508) 885-7515

Sewer Department:
(508) 885-7541

Water Department:
(508) 885-7525

Police General Information:
(508) 885-6333

Fire General Information:
(508) 885-3555

Police & Fire Emergency:
911

**Town of Spencer
Highway Department
2017 - 2018
"SNOW & ICE" PROGRAM
“Moving Forward”**



New this year, the Town of Spencer Highway Department is pleased to make this **"SNOW & ICE 2017 - 2018 PROGRAM"** brochure available to you the taxpayers of Spencer. The main objective of this brochure is to enhance community awareness concerning snowplowing operations. Our mission is to efficiently return our 120 miles of roads to "normal conditions" after each winter storm event. Your support and patience is necessary and greatly appreciated. The Highway "Snow & Ice Program" involves a five (5) part process:

- Pretreatment
- When the Snowfall Starts
- The Snowfall Continues ...
- After the Storm...
- The Community Can Help

Pretreatment of Road Surfaces

Snow and Ice Operations begin with watching up to the minute local and nearby community weather forecasts that tell us approximately when a two (2) inch or greater snow accumulation will begin so that we can pretreat the roads just prior to the beginning of snowfall. Pretreatment consists of a light salting of the roads to prevent the snow from being compacted and frozen on the road surface.

When the Snowfall Starts

Actual snowplowing begins when snow accumulates two (2) inches, or when forecasts indicate that it will. Over 15 Town and private contractor plows can be deployed and assigned to pre-determined routes.

Top priority is given to the Town's main streets and primary collector and arterial roads with the highest traffic volumes.

The Snowfall Continues...

The drivers plow their assigned routes to "open-up" each road in a pre-determined sequence. If the intensity of the storm warrants, the plows remain in the same pattern until the storm subsides. At the end of the storm, the trucks begin to "widen-out" all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back beyond the curb line, then clearing the intersections.

It is important to note that residents may want to wait until the road has been plowed, and "widened-out" before shoveling the entrance to driveways.

Again, our initial responsibility is to keep the main lines and primary traffic routes open and safe for travel. These roads are the key to maintaining a steady flow of traffic and for providing emergency response.

Our talented Highway Snow & Ice Staff are "well-trained" and "dedicated" to work "around-the-clock", keeping the roads open and passable. Please do not be misled by plow trucks riding with their plows up. They may be going in for fuel, repairs, headed to another assigned route or are not employed by the Town.

An area of concern is mailboxes. To reduce the possibility of damaging a mailbox, our plow truck operators are trained to avoid them. However, experience has shown that with reduced visibility during a snowstorm, combined with the height of the snow banks, it is not always possible for a driver to see a mailbox in time to avoid a collision with the "wing" or the heavy snow that is thrown by the moving plow. Any installation within the road right-of-way (including a mailbox), is placed there at the owner's risk. Therefore, property owners are encouraged to put mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the roadway pavement. It is strongly recommended that mailboxes and posts be inspected to insure they are properly secured and the posts are not rotten. Please refer to the Town of Spencer's Winter Plowing Damage and Mailbox Policy for any further information. This document can be seen at:

http://www.spencerma.gov/Pages/SpencerMA_Highway/PlowingDamagePolicy.pdf

After the Storm...

After the snowstorm has ended our crews must continue to monitor all roads for icy spots, drifting snow, etc. At this time, an application of sand or salt is usually applied to all road surfaces. Some roads will receive an application of deicing chemicals (i.e., salt) to melt the remaining snow and ice.

The Community Can Help

The Community can enhance the snow plowing operation by following these suggestions:

- Make certain that your vehicle is ready for winter driving.
- Adhere to winter parking bans.
- Park vehicles off the road or in your yard during a snowstorm.
- Reduce speed and drive cautiously.
- Do not drive in winter snowstorms unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not throw, plow or blow snow onto the road. This creates a hazard to you and to others and requires the Highway Dept. staff to return to clean up at your expense.
- Plows are designed to throw snow up to 30-feet.
- Sidewalk traffic is not advised during a storm event.
- The plowing of sidewalks typically begins directly after the assigned road snow plow routes have been completed.