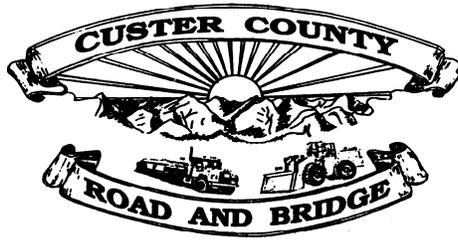


CUSTER COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE
213 N. 4TH STREET
P.O. BOX 1669
WESTCLIFFE, COLORADO 81252
OFF: 719-783-2281
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CUSTER COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

Prioritization of Plow Routes

County-maintained roads are plowed based upon the following prioritization criteria:

1. **Arterial Roadways and School Bus routes:** Arterial roadways are major roadways that provide for high traffic volumes over medium to long distances. Arterial roadways are used for inter-regional, inter-county travel needs.
2. **Collector Roadways:** Collectors distribute traffic between arterial and local roads, serve as main connectors within subdivisions and link one subdivision with another. Collectors generally do not provide direct access to private property.
3. **Local Roadways:** Local roads provide for low to medium traffic volumes within county maintained subdivisions and provide direct access to residences or private property.
4. **Cul-du-sacs**

Once arterial roadways have been cleared, equipment is deployed to clear collector roadways and school bus routes. Residential roadways and cul-du-sacs are addressed when arterial and collector roadways have been completed.

Winter Procedures

Custer County utilizes the following procedures in its snow removal process:

1. Snow forecasts are monitored to determine the anticipated extent of storm and expected temperatures.
2. Roadways are widened to completely remove snow from driving surfaces. Several passes are sometimes necessary to completely remove snow.
3. Widening, ice removal and cleanup operations may take place several days after a snowstorm.
4. Subdivision roads will not be plowed if parked vehicles or other obstructions interfere with the safe and continuous operation of snow removal equipment. Please remember that parking along a county road is unlawful. The road cannot be plowed adequately if they are obstructed by parked vehicles. They will be towed at the owner's expense.
5. Custer County Road and Bridge Department will not remove the snow from driveways and private roads including the portion of these driveways and private roads that are in the County's road right-of-way.

Severe Storms

1. During severe winter storms with high winds and/or minimal visibility, the Road and Bridge Department will not mobilize any equipment until conditions have improved to such a degree that snow removal operations do not endanger the operators, the risk of equipment damage is minimized and the possibility of accidents is reduced.
2. When severe winter storm conditions warrant, The Road and Bridge Department may forego the normal snow removal and ice control plan. Orders will be issued to open as many roadways as possible, one lane in width, before widening operations commence.
3. As a result of severe winter storms, The Road and Bridge Department may be required to plow out and transport Road and Bridge employees to their reporting location.

Landscaping

During snow removal operations, Custer County Road and Bridge will not assume any responsibility for damage to any landscaping located within the County's road right-of-way.

Fences

Fences will be repaired if damage is done by Road and Bridge equipment actually hitting a fence while snow is being plowed. The Department is not responsible for any damage that is done while strictly clearing road surfaces. Some roads will not be cleared if it appears that fence damage is likely to occur.

Rule of Thumb: Fences should be 30 feet from the center of the road. The Road and Bridge Department will at times, dismantle a fence in order to stack snow in fields, if necessary. Fences will be repaired in these problem areas.

Drift Guards

Drift guards will be plowed on private property only with permission of land owner or in case of an emergency. They will be put in depending on available time and manpower.

Custer County Road and Bridge would greatly appreciate private property a written letter of authorization from private property owners allowing us to put drift guards on their property.

This authorization needs to be completed prior to the upcoming snow season. This will be a great help for the Road and Bridge Department in maintaining safe county roads.

Plowing and Sanding Standards

1. Custer County Department of Transportation does not have a bare pavement policy
2. Limited sanding may be performed during the winter storm.
3. When the winter storm has stopped, the major sanding operation will commence, if warranted.
4. Sanding may be limited to hills, intersections and curves.

Budget Constraints

Due to budget constraints, the Board of County Commissions may limit snow removal operations.

Property Owners, Who Create Hazards In A Public Right-of-way

Property owners, who create hazards in a public right-of-way, e.g., plowing snow off private drives, piling construction materials or timber, or placing garbage bins, may be subject to prosecution under C.R.S. 43-5-301. A property owner may also be liable for any injury attributable to a hazard or the removal of a hazard he has created in a public right-of-way. Vehicle owners and property owners in a public right-of-way are likewise subject to prosecution and vehicle impoundment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why doesn't the County plow my road when they go by?

Routes are plowed on a priority basis. The arterial roadways and collectors being our top priorities. Clearing priority roads opens routes into all residential areas, usually within a reasonable proximity of each residence.

After the storm, why did the plow come through and plowed my driveway shut again?

Cleanup/widening operations often take place 1-4 days after the storm, depending on the severity of the storm and wind conditions. It is necessary to widen roads to insure that the ice and snow melt off the driven surface. Failure to do so will result in ice and snow packed roads which would not be wide enough to accommodate storage of snow from subsequent storms and would prevent proper drainage, resulting in increased ice problems.

Can I clear my snow by pushing it across a county road?

No. C.R.S. § states: Property owners, who create hazards in a public right-of-way, e.g., plowing snow off private drives, piling construction materials or timber, or placing garbage bins, may be subject to prosecution under C.R.S. § 43-5-301. A property owner may also be liable for any injury attributable to a hazard or the removal of a hazard/he has created in a public right-of-way. Vehicle owners and property owners in a public right-of-way are likewise subject to prosecution and vehicle impoundment. Snow cannot be removed from private drives in such a way as to create any safety or drainage hazard on a county road.

What if I have an emergency and my street isn't plowed?

If an emergency situation occurs, call 911. Equipment will be diverted for emergencies ONLY WHEN REQUESTED BY AN EMERGENCY SERVICE AGENCY OR THE CUSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. The Sheriff's Department has constant communications with our staff during storm conditions. Please be aware that it is a crime to make a false emergency request.

Who is responsible for damaged mailboxes?

Mailboxes installed along roadways and in rights of way are at the risk of the owner. Mailboxes damaged from lack of owner maintenance, snow load from plowing, or vandalism are not the responsibility of the County. Postal regulations require residents to clean snow in front of mailboxes to allow for small mail delivery.

As a part time resident, what procedure should I follow?

Call the Custer County Road and Bridge office at 719-783-2281 THREE DAYS PRIOR to the time you plan to occupy your residence. This will give us adequate time to properly prepare county access roads.

The county has implemented emergency procedures that have turned into policies that are implemented by multiple agencies. All of them begin with a 911 request.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Advisory to Citizens of Custer County Regarding Winter Operations Custer County Road and Bridge Department

During the 2007-2008 winter season, The Road and Bridge Department would like to take the opportunity to inform the citizens of Custer County about what to expect for snow plowing and sanding operations.

Custer County has a diverse labor force and it is impossible to meet the needs of each of our citizens. Therefore, the Road and Bridge Department asks that anyone operating a motor vehicle during this season take the time to equip their vehicle with the necessary winter equipment.

The following is an inventory list of necessary items that should be in each vehicle:

- ✓ Matches and Candles
- ✓ Flashlight with Extra Batteries
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ TIRE CHAINS pre-fitted to your vehicle
- ✓ Small sack of Sand or Cat Litter
- ✓ Shovel and small Tool Kit
- ✓ Tow Chain or Strap
- ✓ Jumper Cables
- ✓ Warning Triangles

All motorists must realize there may be periods during storm events when the roads will not be freshly plowed and sanded. The Road and Bridge Department requests that **FOR YOUR SAFETY** that you are prepared for these conditions and understand the proper use of the devices outlined in the above list. Additionally, all motorists should **tell someone when and where they will be traveling** in order to prevent being stranded for an extended period of time.