

Town of Monkton Highway Department Winter Maintenance Policy

Purpose: To ensure the safety of travelers and maintenance personnel during winter conditions by implementing effective snow and ice control measures by adhering to the "Safe Road for Safe Speed" principle.

Scope: This policy applies to all highway and road maintenance activities within the jurisdiction during winter months (typically November to March).

1. Objectives

- Maintain safe and passable roads during winter weather events.
- Reduce the risk of accidents caused by snow, ice, and poor visibility.
- Provide timely and efficient snow and ice removal operations.
- Ensure staff safety and operational efficiency.

2. Definitions

- **Safe Road:** A road that is free of excessive snow and ice and has appropriate signage and markings.
- **Safe Speed:** Adjusting driving speed according to road conditions to prevent accidents, consistent with the "Safe Road for Safe Speed" policy.

3. Operation Activation Threshold

- **Snowfall Trigger:** Snow removal activities will not be initiated until accumulating snow reaches **at least 2 inches**. This threshold is set to optimize resources and prevent unnecessary plowing during minor snowfall or light dustings.

4. Responsibilities

- **Highway Department Crew:** Execute snow and ice control operations when snowfall exceeds 2 inches as directed by the Road Foreman.
- **Road Foreman:** Monitor weather conditions, activate snow removal as per threshold and icy roads as needed, communicate updates to the Selectboard liaison.
- **Selectboard:** Develop, review, and update procedures, ensure staff training and support.
- **Public:** Drivers are responsible for adhering to posted speed limits and warnings.

5. Operations Plan

a. Pre-Winter Preparation

- Inspect and maintain snow removal equipment.
- Stockpile salt, sand, and de-icing materials.
- Review weather forecasting sources.
- Educate staff on winter safety and operational procedures.

b. Snow and Ice Control

- Monitor weather forecasts hourly to activate snow removal when the threshold is met.

- Deploy snow plows and anti-icing measures when snowfall reaches 2 inches or more.
- Deploy plows, salt, and sand spreaders to treat roads proactively or reactively.
- Focus on high-traffic corridors, curves, intersections, and slopes.

c. Emergency Response

- Prioritize emergency route clearance.
- Coordinate with first responders.
- Communicate road closures and detours promptly.

7. Training and Safety

- Provide ongoing training to maintenance staff on winter operations and safety protocols.
- Equip staff with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

8. Review and Evaluation

- Conduct after-action reviews following major winter storms.
- Update policies and procedures based on lessons learned.
- Aim for continuous improvement in winter road safety and snow removal efficiency.

9. Plow Routes

1. Truck #2 (4 Hours)

- Silver Street
- Bristol Road
- Hardscrabble Road
- Bristol Road (South)
- Monkton Road
- Hollow Road
- Monkton Road (south)
- Monkton Ridge
- States Prison Hollow Road
- Mountain Road (asphalt)
- Tyler Bridge Road

2. Truck #3 (4 Hours)

- Boro Hill Road
- Piney Woods Road
- Barnum Road
- Hardscrabble Road
- Mountain Road
- Church Road
- Mountain Road (south)
- States Prison Hollow Road (dirt section)
- Turkey Ln

3. Truck #4 (4 Hours)

- Davis Road
- Rotax Road

- Roscoe Road
- Rotax Road
- Covered Bridge Road
- Higbee Road
- Rotax Road (short section)
- Covered Bridge (short section)
- Pond Road
- Nichols Road
- TH 33
- Old Stage Road
- Parks Hurlburt Road
- Lime Kiln Road
- Parks Hurlburt Road

4. Truck #5 (4.5 Hours)

- Cedar Ln
- Bennett Road
- Jockey Ln
- Morgan Road
- Cemetery Road
- TH 14
- Pond Road Extension
- Murray Road
- Tracy Road
- Shattuck Road
- Monkton Volunteer Fire Department
- Monkton Town Hall
- Monkton Park and Ride
- Monkton Community Dog Park
- Once storms are over this truck also cleans the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department Dry Hydrants

Adopted November 25, 2025.

Jessica Demeritt, Chair

Walter Crandall, Vice Chair

Sam Peisch, Secretary

Joe Szarejko

John Dunham

Handwritten signatures of the four individuals listed on the left, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures are: Jessica Demeritt, Walter Crandall, Sam Peisch, and John Dunham.