



# **TOWN OF FAIRPLAY, COLORADO**

## **SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

### ***Our Mission***

Perform snow removal operations on the Town road network in an efficient and orderly manner that keeps our roads as safe as possible consistent with prevailing weather conditions and available resources.

### ***Our Goal***

To open all town-maintained roads as soon as possible after each storm event and in accordance with the procedures described herein. The Town also strives to maintain the roads during major storm events while keeping the safety of our staff and the general public first and foremost.

### ***General Information***

Our crews continually prepare for snow removal operations, inspecting and maintaining equipment and materials that will be needed for snow events.

The Town Public Works Staff works hard to keep roadways open, plowed, and safe. We strive to plow all streets as soon as possible after each storm event where accumulation of snow exceeds 3" in depth. During significant snowstorm events, we may have to pass through areas more than once. Our main objective is to open roadways to necessary traffic as soon as possible, thus it may be a day or two before we are able to widen the streets and/or push back accumulated snow piles.

Town crews conduct snow removal operations between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Crews do not provide snowplowing outside these hours due to safety regulations and

resources do not allow for split shifts so crews must be provided appropriate rest which is in the best interests of employees and public safety.

While the Public Works Department appreciates calls from the public on weather/road conditions or emergencies, please be aware it is impossible for Staff to clear all roads immediately and the patience and cooperation of our citizens during adverse weather conditions is greatly appreciated.

### ***Application of Traction Materials (Sanding)***

Sanding of most roads is limited during heavy snowfall because the sand is quickly covered and may be removed as additional plowing occurs. When applying sand, special attention is given to road sections posing specific safety concerns. These include, but are not limited to, school zones, approaches to intersections that are stop-sign or yield controlled, curves, steep grades, heavy traffic areas, shaded areas where ice accumulates, and any other areas that may develop problems. The Town does not use de-icing salts or chemicals in its sanding process.

### ***Snow Removal Clarifications***

The Town of Fairplay is not responsible for state highways, private roads and driveways. The Colorado Department of Transportation plows both State Highway 9 / Main Street and US Highway 285. Homeowners, private associations or private companies are responsible for clearing driveways and private drives or parking lots. Public Works Crews may plow these streets in an emergency situation when requested by the Police, Fire, EMS, Town Administrator or Public Works Director. On occasion, courtesy plowing for elderly or disabled citizens can be done depending on the situation.

### ***Snow Pushed Onto/Across Town Roads or Right-of-Ways***

Citizens pushing or throwing snow onto or across Town roads endangers the traveling public and snowplow operators. Snow plowed from a driveway should remain on the property which that driveway serves. C.R.S. 43-5-301 sets forth that anyone who obstructs a roadway or causes a hazard to traffic may be cited and if convicted would be guilty of a civil infraction and shall also be liable to the Town in a civil action for any damages resulting therefrom.

The Town respectfully requests voluntary compliance from its residents and businesses and will opt to issue a written or verbal warning in most cases, but more egregious or dangerous violations will result in a citation for County Court being issued.

## ***Clearing of Sidewalks / Walkways***

Town crews will clear the sidewalks along Highway 9 / Main Street. Residents and business owners are responsible for clearing sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses as per Fairplay Municipal Code:

*Sec. 11-1-10. Removal of snow or ice.*

*It is unlawful for any owner or occupant of any lot, block or parcel of ground within the Town, or any agent in charge of such property, to allow any snow or ice to accumulate or remain upon any sidewalk alongside such property longer than twenty-four (24) hours from the time of the last accretion of such snow and ice.*

## ***Parked or Abandoned Vehicles May Be Towed***

Parking is always prohibited on Town streets and rights of way unless otherwise designated by signage. Unauthorized or inappropriate parking along or within streets causes problems for pedestrians, other drivers, and plow operators. This can also result in damage to a parked vehicle or a Town plow. The Town assumes no responsibility for damage to vehicles, landscaping or any other objects placed in the streets or rights-of-way. Roads on which vehicles or other obstructions exist and restrict the safe and continuous operation of snow removal equipment may not be plowed until the obstacle(s) are removed. In instances where a vehicle is obstructing the right-of-way and/or creating a dangerous situation, the owner may be ticketed and the vehicle towed at the owner's expense.

C.R.S. 18-9-107 – Obstructing a highway or other passageway, sets forth the following:

*(1) An individual or corporation commits an offense if without legal privilege such individual or corporation intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:*

*(a) Obstructs a highway, street, sidewalk, railway, waterway, building entrance, elevator, aisle, stairway, or hallway to which the public or a substantial group of the public has access or any other place used for the passage of persons, vehicles, or conveyances, whether the obstruction arises from his acts alone or from his acts and the acts of others; or*

*(b) Disobeys a reasonable request or order to move issued by a person the individual or corporation knows to be a peace officer, a firefighter, or a person with authority to control the use of the premises, to prevent obstruction of a highway or passageway or to maintain public safety by dispersing those gathered in dangerous proximity to a fire, riot, or other hazard.*

*(2) For purposes of this section, "obstruct" means to render impassable or to render passage unreasonably inconvenient or hazardous.*

Furthermore, Fairplay Municipal Code Section 8-2-30 – Notice prior to towing; exceptions; hearing, subsection (b) sets forth:

*Nothing contained in this Article shall prohibit the immediate towing of a vehicle from a public right-of-way or other public property that is obstructing traffic flow or that otherwise poses an immediate threat to public safety.*

### ***Blizzard Conditions***

On occasion, extreme weather conditions force the Town to temporarily cease operations and close a road or section of road due to snow density or blowing snow. The Town does not require its operators to continue operations under such adverse and dangerous conditions. As soon as conditions improve, closed roads will be a priority.

### ***What You Can Do TO Help Us Better Serve You***

Always stay back 75 feet or more behind a snowplow. Operators consistently have to make abrupt or evasive movements or turns and at times must back up with limited vision. Keep in mind that if you cannot see the snowplow's rearview mirror, the operator cannot see you.

Please be courteous and patient, if you must pass a plow make sure you can do so safely. Honk your horn and flash your lights to alert the driver if you decide you are going to pass. **NEVER attempt to stop a snowplow or to obstruct its path. Plows must maintain a certain speed in order to be effective and therefore need a greater distance to come to a stop.**

Make children aware of the potential danger of standing or playing near any roadway while waiting for the school bus or walking to school when plows are operating. Do not allow children to build snowmen or snow caves on or near the roadway or on the shoulders and certainly discourage children from playing in the streets.

Joggers, walkers and cyclists should wear reflective clothing and exit the roadway (*step into a driveway or opposite shoulder*) to allow plows to pass without being forced into an oncoming traffic lane which is dangerous to the plow operator and the traveling public.

**DO NOT park vehicles, trailers or other obstacles (e.g., trash cans, bicycles, etc) on Town streets or right-of-way.**

### ***General Statement***

To all Fairplay citizens, please know that the Town Public Works staff is dedicated to the safety of its citizens and the traveling public. It is our pleasure to serve you and we greatly appreciate your support and cooperation.