

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
POLICY**

SUBJECT:	SNOW CLEARING AND ROAD SANDING
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL:	JANUARY 25, 2000
AMENDED BY COUNCIL:	AUGUST 12, 2003
AMENDED BY COUNCIL:	DECEMBER 10, 2007

Although the Council recognizes that snow plowing, snow removal and road sanding are essential community services; budgetary limits temper the operations of the municipality to provide its residents with a cost-effective program of snow clearing and road sanding.

The District of Hudson's Hope covers an extensive geographic area and the number of employees and the equipment involved in snow clearing and road sanding operations at any time depends on the severity and duration of the snow fall, the temperature, and other conditions such as available manpower (e.g., garbage collection days). Overtime is to be minimized wherever possible.

The task of keeping some roads passable may be complicated by steep grades. Areas identified as historically being hazardous will be given special attention.

The Ministry of Transportation Highways, through its contractor, is responsible for maintaining Highway 29, 520 Road (Canyon Drive), 715 and 118 Roads (Beryl Prairie), 190 Road (Dunlevy) and 116 Road (Farrell Creek).

Generally, work carried out under this policy is performed in accordance with the following schedule:

- #1 Downtown routes and sidewalks that provide access to the schools; RCMP Detachment; Health Centre; Fire Hall, parking lot for the municipal office; and Beryl Prairie and Lynx Creek.
- #2 Downtown routes that provide access to business establishments and residences; Thompson and Jamieson subdivisions.
- #3 The municipal aerodrome and rural roads constructed to municipal standards; parking lots and accesses for the Community Hall; Curling Club; Library; New Horizons; Silver Willow Court; Thrift Shop; driveways of senior citizens and those confined to wheelchairs, adjacent to roads cleared by the municipality.

The School District establishes bus routes for students based on its own policies. The municipality clears snow and applies road sand/salt to bus routes that comply with municipal specifications and bylaw standards.

Where there is limited room to turn municipal vehicles around, adjacent property owners will be asked for permission to use their private accesses for this purpose.

As winter conditions progress, access to fire hydrants may be reduced by accumulated snow. During regular working hours, when staff resources are not committed to performing other duties, accumulated snow shall be cleared from around fire hydrants and valves.

Business establishments (including BC Hydro) and institutional premises are responsible for clearing snow and ice from their parking areas and private accesses. Snow cleared from these areas shall not be plowed or deposited onto municipal road allowances.

Snow clearing operations shall commence when the accumulation of snow on municipal roads from a single storm exceeds 5 cm (2") and snow is continuing to fall, except where reliable weather forecasts indicate the storm is nearly over and/or changing weather conditions are imminent.

The application of road sand/salt is to assist in the reduction of motor vehicle accidents. Accordingly, road sand/salt is applied at the approach to intersections, along curves and downhill grades and where extremely slippery conditions are apparent. The standard sand/salt ratio for sanding roads shall be 80% road sand to 20% sodium chloride by volume. This ratio may be altered if specific conditions so require.

Residents can greatly assist the snow clearing operations, and help prevent damage to their vehicles, by:

- not storing unused vehicles, trailers, boats, etc., on streets;
- not parking vehicles on streets during snow falls;
- obeying temporary "no parking" signs placed in areas while snow removal is in progress;
- not depositing snow from driveways onto traveled portions of streets or around fire hydrants; and
- driving well back of the sander truck to avoid vehicle damage.

Although the grader is equipped with a hydraulic "gate" to temporarily hold back snow, trucks with plows are unable to avoid leaving a snow ridge across driveways entrances. Snow removed from driveways by property owners should be stored on the left side of the driveway (when facing the house) as this will reduce the amount of snow spread across the driveway entrance during plowing.