

Saguache County Road and Bridge Department

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Saguache County Snow Removal Policy

Removal of snow during periods of inclement weather will be done according to the following priorities:

- 1. Emergencies that endanger human life requested through the Saguache County Sheriff's office.**
- 2. School bus routes as designated by the appropriate school district.**
- 3. Mail carrier routes.**
- 4. Other County roads designated by the Board of Commissioners to remain open during the Winter months.**

It is the policy of Saguache County to remove snow from roadway surfaces only when average snow depths exceed 2 (two) inches on paved surfaces and 4 (four) inches on unsurfaced roads. Since it is impossible to monitor all areas within the County and snowfall can vary considerably from area to area it is possible that some locations will have deeper snow than the minimums before plowing begins.

Sand will usually only be applied at or near intersections or on extreme grades on paved roads. Sanding equipment is not normally assigned to all areas and in some cases must be brought in from other areas of the County. In most cases normally this cannot be done until conditions permit which will usually mean in some cases no sanding will be done until the storm abates and the sanding equipment has completed its removal responsibilities in its area.

Removal of snow deposited on private approaches during removal operations from the County Road is the responsibility of the approach owner. Damage to mailboxes and other structures adjacent to the plowed surface are the owner's responsibility. The County will not repair mailboxes and other structures damaged during snow removal operations that are located on the right-of-way.

Because of safety and budget considerations, plowing will not be done throughout the night as a routine part of our plowing operations.

Plow operators are directed that the first priority is to get the roads cleared as fast as possible, emergencies excepted. Operators are authorized to stop and assist disabled or stuck vehicles only if it is necessary to clear the roadway or if life or health is in danger. Requests for assistance from stranded vehicles not involving an emergency will be radioed into the Sheriff's office for disposition.

Individual operators have been authorized; if all their assigned roads are clear; to assist the elderly, disabled, and livestock owners with snow removal operations at the operator's discretion. Likewise they can remove snow from community streets if all their other work has been completed. This additional work is up to the operator and in no case will the operator accept remuneration for the work nor will he work more than a 12 hour shift without authorization. He is also under no obligation to accept any work off the County Road System. Plowing work off the designated County snow routes will be billed at the rate of \$85.00/hr. unless waived by the Board of County Commissioners. This may include emergency removal of snow on the Non-County maintained system.

Randal Arredondo (Road & Bridge Supervisor)