



Policy # 4018

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Policy Title: Snow Removal and Ice Control

Policy No.: 4018

Approval: County Council

Effective Date: November 26, 2014

Approved Date: November 26, 2014

Last Review Date: February 4, 2026

Supersedes Policy No.: Section C Public Works (9)

Policy Statement: Mountain View County (the County) will have a clear process for providing snow and ice control on the County Road System.

Purpose: The Snow and Ice control process will provide an effective priority management system for the implementation of snow and ice control.

Principles:

1. Identify the priority of the order that snow and ice control measures will be implemented on the County Road System.
2. Identify the snow accumulation amounts that will cause the commencement of snow and ice control operations.
3. Identify the need to provide snow and ice control on the airports under the care and control of the County.
4. Identify the issues and mitigative measures concerning snow and ice control operational issues such as insurance, road side hazards, overtime, and contract operations.

Procedure # 4018-01

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Procedure Title: Snow and Ice Control

Procedure No.: 4018-01

Approval: CAO

Effective Date: March 13, 2012
Approved Date: February 12, 2026
Last Review Date: February 4, 2026



Supersedes Procedure No.: Section C (9) Public Works

1. Definitions

- 1.1 Chief Administrative Officer (CAO): – means the CAO of Mountain View County or their delegate.
- 1.2 County – means Mountain View County.
- 1.3 Collector Road – means Mountain View County’s officially recognized road network for which long-term plans for maintenance and/or upgrading exists and may include asphalt paved, chip-sealed, and gravel roads.
- 1.4 Farm Access Road – mean roads which service subdivisions, local residential areas, agriculture community, and rural roads.
- 1.5 Hard Surface – means asphalt pavement, concrete or chip-sealed surface.
- 1.6 Industrial/Commercial Roads – mean roads which have been identified that have access roads leading to commercial or industrial operations.
- 1.7 Multi-lot Subdivision – means a subdivision of two (2) or more lots.
- 1.8 Opened Road – means a road which has been made passable by snow plowing equipment but may still require widening or additional work to be fully functional.
- 1.9 Quadrants – means local Foreman areas as follows: Quadrant 1 is the south-east area, Quadrant 2 is the north-east area, Quadrant 3 is the north-west area, and Quadrant 4 is the south-west area of Mountain View County.

2. Service Levels

- 2.1 Snowplowing and removal shall follow the list of priorities and triggers, as outlined in Table 1 below.
- 2.2 County Operations is broken into four (4) Foreman Quadrants. Inside each Quadrant, there are assigned snow and ice control routes for our drivers. Each Foreman is responsible to ensure the completion of the routes and the safety of their crews.
- 2.3 Snow and ice control operations at the Olds/Didsbury and Sundre Airport will be handled through separate agreement with a contractor.

- 2.4 Ice control will be provided on an ongoing basis during snow events, frost, freezing rain, or any other event that impedes traction control. Abrasives will be applied to Hard Surface roads on hills, curves, intersections, bridge decks and other locations as deemed appropriate by the Director of Operational Services. Ice control operations typically follow the priorities outlines in Table 1 below.

Table 1:

Priority	Location	Trigger	Goals
1	Collector Road (minor and major) Hills, bridges, super-elevated curves	5cm (2") Surface accumulation	To be opened within 24 hours of commencement of snow removal operations. Widen roads within 72 hours of last measurable snow accumulation.
2	Industrial/Commercial Roads	5cm (2") Surface accumulation	To be opened within 24 hours of commencement of snow removal operations. Widen roads within 72 hours of last measurable snow accumulation.
3	Major/Minor Farm Access Roads	10cm (4") Surface accumulation	To be opened within 72 hours of commencement of snow removal operations. Widen roads within 96 hours of last measurable snow accumulation.
4	Residential Subdivision Internal Road And Community Halls	Discretionary	From commencement of Priority 4, to be opened within 72 hours. Widen roads within 96 hours of last measurable snow accumulation.

NOTE: Priority 2 will be commenced after Priority 1 is completed. If necessary, (i.e.: if snowfall becomes continuous and exceeds the allowable accumulation) resources may be rotated back to a higher priority without finishing a lower priority. **EXAMPLE:** A Priority 3 may be stopped mid-stream to commence a Priority 1.

- 2.5 In the case of a severe event, the Director of Operational Services, in consultation with the CAO, will be authorized to utilize County equipment and staff for extended hours of operations.
- 2.6 The hiring of contract equipment will only be considered when full utilization of County equipment is unable to open the road in a satisfactory manner, as decided by the levels of service, Director of Operational Services and in consultation with the CAO.
- 2.7 If contract services are used, County equipment will continue to operate on a regular basis until service levels are met.
- 2.8 The County will utilize preventative measures wherever possible to mitigate snow accumulations on roadways (i.e. clearing roadside brush and trees, installation of snow fencing).
- 2.9 The County will not provide snow clearing service on closed, leased, or semi-private roads or private driveways/laneways, other than for life or property that is in imminent danger and initiated by emergency service agencies (i.e., medical, fire, police, gas/electrical companies).
- 2.10 As part of regular snow plowing operations, plows and graders will inevitably leave windrows across approaches into private properties. Although operators will try to mitigate the size of the windrows wherever possible, it is not expected that the County will remove the windrows or plow the approaches.

- 2.11 Mailboxes, including Canada Post Multi-Mailboxes, are the property owner's responsibility to clear snow from a mailbox and/or repair. When plowing snow, mailboxes are sometimes blocked and/or damaged by snow removal and ice control operations.
- 2.12 Claims will not be considered by the County for property damage to structures or vegetation on private property or to vehicles on County roads as a result of the snow coming off the plow blade or sanding material spread by the equipment during snow and ice control operations.
- 2.13 All equipment being utilized for snow and ice control operations will be called off the roads during unsafe conditions as determined by the Director of Operational Services or their designate.
- 2.14 Community Halls, along with local community organizations such as churches and select not-for-profit groups hosting public events, are classified as a priority 4 and will have snow removal completed upon request. These organizations may request expedited snow removal to facilitate an upcoming event by submitting a service request to Operational Services at least 48 hours in advance. While County crews will make best efforts to accommodate these requests, expedited service is subject to crew availability and proximity, and cannot be guaranteed.

3. Materials

- 3.1 Winter abrasives will consist of sand with a 5% to 8% mixture of salt.

4. Limitations

- 4.1 Service levels may be impacted by the following:
 - Available resources and equipment
 - Council-approved budget
 - Extreme weather conditions
- 4.2 The County Operations Department will make necessary adjustments when the above-noted limitations are encountered.