

Snow Plow Policy

The Lent Township's general goal is to have all Township roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped. Roads are prioritized by traffic volume and logical routing. The Township does not assure a completely bare road and will not normally sand entire sections of roadway. The sanding of intersections, hills and curves are the priority. Users of the system are reminded to exercise caution and to realize that the legal speed limit may not be reasonable in certain weather conditions. The Township usually will not dispatch snowplows until the snowfall has stopped, with exceptions possible during periods of extended snowfall. Plows will generally be dispatched between 12:00 am and 7:30 am, or when snow and drifting conditions allow reasonable accomplishments to be made. Operator's duty shifts are generally limited to a maximum of 16 hours per day for safety reasons. The plow operator's first job is to make the road passable with one lane in one direction plowed. Then plow the second lane to have one lane in each direction open; lanes are then widened to the edge of the shoulders and sanding is done; cleanup of ice and slush are done as demands allow. Mailboxes damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Only those mailboxes that are properly built and installed in a location in accordance with Minnesota Department of Transportation Standards and which were damaged by actual contact with Township equipment will be repaired at Township expense. It is illegal to plow snow across any public roadway. Minnesota Statute 160.2715 RIGHT-OF-WAY USE; MISDEMEANORS states, "it shall be unlawful to: (1) obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon". Piles of snow left on or near the roadway can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. These are general guidelines used by the Lent Township road maintenance department. Each decision to mobilize, to the snow plow crews working, and to apply salt/sand is a judgment call based on the particular weather conditions, past experience, and the availability of resources at that particular time, and therefore may not adhere strictly to this general policy. For any information or concerns, call the office at 651-462-3009.

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