

Snow and Ice Removal



VIOLET TOWNSHIP ROAD DEPARTMENT

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Snow and Ice Removal



The purpose of this Violet Township Snow and Ice Removal program is to provide a safe Township roadway system and access routes for the motoring public, public transit, public schools, fire, police, the residents of Violet Township and the surrounding communities. Understanding the program cannot eliminate the impact or effects of a snow and/or ice emergency.

This information is intended to communicate Violet Township's coordination efforts to reduce the threat to public safety from a snow and/or ice emergency. During inclement weather, Violet Township will make every effort to maintain the traffic flow in the Township as close to normal as possible.

Operations

Overview

Snow and ice control is one of the most significant winter activities performed by Violet Township. The Township is responsible for keeping 106 centerline miles of roads safe and passable whenever winter weather strikes.

Several treatment methods are utilized during snow and ice removal operations, depending on the type of road and current weather conditions. Salt is used to melt the snow or ice. Brine is applied to roadways before snow begins to fall to help prevent the bonding of snow and ice to pavements. Other additives are mixed with salt when temperatures drop below 20 degrees.



When snowfall is heavy enough to require plowing, the time needed to complete a route can nearly double. For straight salting, it is only necessary to drive in one direction to salt two lanes. However, a driver must make two passes over the same road in order to plow each lane while applying salt on the second pass.

Organization of Staff

Violet Township staffs a crew of employees sufficient for handling snow and ice control on Township-maintained roads. The road crew is a blend of full and part-time employees. Full time employees are required to maintain a current Commercial Driver's License (CDL).



During normal hours of operation, the Violet Township Engineer/Road Superintendent confers with the Township Trustee(s) prior to winter storms approaching the area.

After normal hours of operation, the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office contacts a designated Township Trustee who then confers with the Township Engineer/Road Superintendent. The severity of the storm is determined and degree of manpower needed to treat the roads is evaluated.

Organization of Equipment

Violet Township has 5 snow routes. Each route is approximately 20 miles in length. Routes are divided into those using 4 single axle dump trucks with a capacity of 6 to 8 tons of salt and a tandem axle dump truck with a capacity of 12 tons of salt. Each route has primary and secondary routes.

A salt barn was constructed in 1999. This facility has a capacity of nearly 1,000 tons of salt.



Figure 1 – Blizzard of 1978. Harmon Rd looking south. The road is between the trees and the telephone poles. The tree line in the distance is Refugee Road.

Safety

During the Violet Township Road Department's first priority is to provide safety for all of the motorized public using the Township roadway system. Here is what you can do to be prepared for a winter storm event, practice caution for you and your family, and drive with care during the upcoming winter season.

During a Winter Storm Event



Do not allow children to play on roadways or snow berms as this is very dangerous. Drivers may not see them or be able to stop in time to avoid hitting them.

As snow is plowed from roadways, windrows (a line of snow) can be created at the end of driveways and are the property owner's responsibility to clear. Do not shovel or put snow from driveways onto or across Township roads as this is unlawful and creates a hazard for drivers. When clearing your driveway, try to pile the snow to the left side as you face your house. This will prevent the snow plow from dragging the pile across the front of your driveway.

If you are removing snow from your property and a Township snow plow approaches, you may not be visible to the operator. Dark clothing, the hour of day and weather conditions inhibit visibility. Protect yourself from injury by giving the snow operator extra room to perform the task.

On the Road

If possible, don't use the roads until the snow plows and salt trucks have had a chance to do their work and allow extra time to reach your destination. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your vehicle is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions. Clear all snow and ice from mirrors, windows, headlights and taillights before leaving.



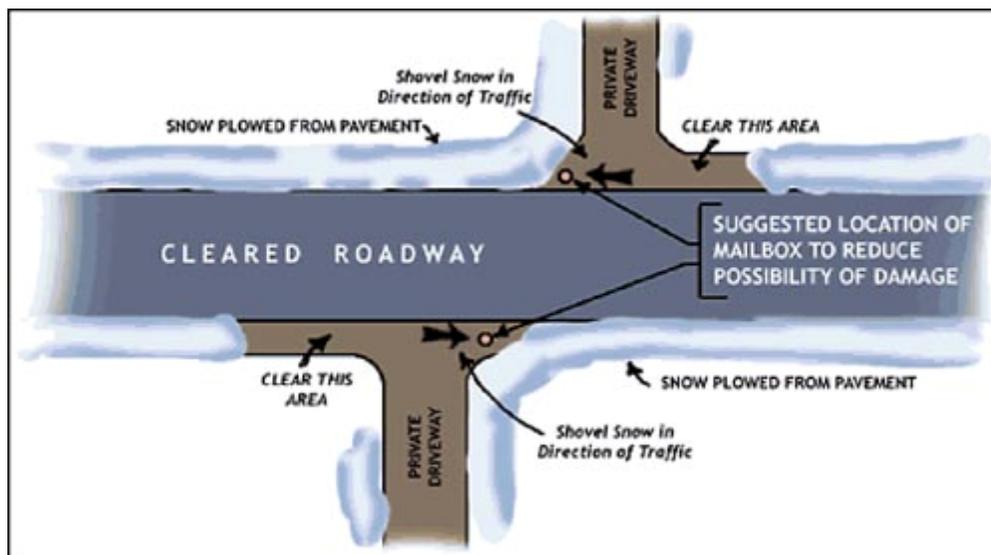
Snow plows make frequent stops and maneuvers. Do not drive your vehicle immediately behind a snow plow as the driver may be unable to see you and inadvertently back into your vehicle. If you are behind a snow plow that stops,

stop your vehicle in such a way that your vehicle looks into the driver's outside rearview mirror, and give them extra room.

Drivers should give an oncoming snowplow truck the right of way. If you see a salt truck approaching on a narrow road, please be courteous and pull off to the side of the road and let the snow plow pass.

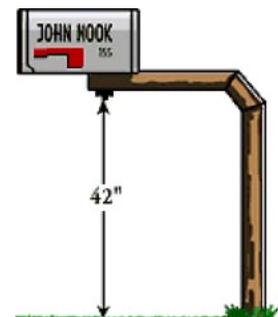
Storm Damage

Although undesired, there is always the potential for damage to mailboxes during the snow and ice removal process. Damage will be evaluated on a case by case basis.



Mailboxes are sometimes damaged when plowing occurs. On most occasions, they are knocked down NOT by the plow itself, but by the force of the snow as it is being pushed aside. However, most mailboxes, if sturdy and properly installed, will withstand this force.

Mailboxes that are damaged by actual physical contact with Township equipment will be repaired at the Township's expense provided they were properly located and installed. The mailbox owner is responsible for repair or replacement of the mailbox if the mailbox was damaged by the force of the plowed snow and there was no physical contact with the plow equipment.



Closing

This program is designed to provide the best level of service possible, but residents should have realistic expectations. Unpredictable weather conditions or events and limited financial resources make it extremely difficult to ensure absolutely clear roads.