

Snowplowing FAQs

When does plowing begin?

The County will not usually dispatch snowplows until after a snowfall has stopped. Exceptions may be made during extended snowfalls, but plows will not be sent out in hazardous conditions.

If snowfall stops during regular work hours, plows may be dispatched at that time. If the snowfall stops during the night or early morning, plows are usually dispatched at 3:00 AM to try to accommodate the traveling public. Weekend plowing will be handled the same way.

What gets plowed?

The County plows County State Aid Highways and County Roads. Hubbard County has 1,044 lane miles of roads that are maintained. Roads are prioritized and paved roads are plowed first.

What is the plowing procedure?

The County does not assure a completely bare road and it will not sand entire sections of roadway. There are normally three phases of plowing:

1. Make the road passable by cleaning one lane in each direction.
2. Widen the lanes to the edge of the shoulders. Sanding takes place at problem locations, including intersections, curves, hills and bridges. Salt mixture varies with temperature and road condition. 15 degrees and rising is the starting point for salt mixture to react to ice on roads.
3. Cleanup, during which ice and slush are removed and the sun is allowed to do its work.

What about mailbox damage?

The County will repair at its expense only mailbox supports that are properly located and installed and which were damaged by actual contact with County equipment, as per the County Board's Adopted Snowplowing Policy. Damage resulting from snow and ice flying from the plow is not the responsibility of the County. All mailboxes placed within the road right of way are placed there at the owner's risk. The mailbox and support are the property and liability of the owner. The owner has the responsibility to maintain and conform to mailbox standards adopted under Minnesota State Law. Hubbard County does not issue written permits for the placement of mailboxes within the road right of way, nor do our easements provide for mailbox construction.

What is my responsibility?

County residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across County roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass, creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

What if I get stranded or stuck?

Stranded motorists – The County highway department may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement/ emergency personnel. The department will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from ditches, snow banks or other impediments.