

**ELKO COUNTY WINTER MAINTENANCE  
AND SNOW REMOVAL POLICY  
RELATING TO THE ELKO COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM**

NOVEMBER 3, 2004

**GENERAL**

The purpose of this policy is to set up acceptable procedures and policies for the winter maintenance of public roads, as to snow removal in Elko County, Nevada. This policy replaces all prior written or unwritten policies.

The intent of establishing the Elko County Winter Maintenance policy concerning snow, is to provide a uniform understanding of the priorities and procedures used to combat snow.

Elko County Highway Department has regular work hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm, P.S.T.), and if a storm requires attention during weekends or holidays this would require overtime. It can be expected that service during off hours will be minimal and only provided when extreme storm conditions arise.

The Elko County Highway Department endeavors to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. This does not mean bare dry surfaces should be expected after snow fall. Furthermore, this does not mean the roads will be free of ice and snow.

**BASIC POLICY**

- Winter maintenance and snow removal shall be considered within practical and fiscal considerations primarily using Elko County Highway Department personnel and equipment.
  
- Snow removal will normally commence at the termination of a storm and be pursued based on the priority within the road system of the particular road segment. Snow removal during blizzard and high wind conditions is usually futile and a waste of operator and equipment resources.
  
- "Around the clock" snow removal operations will not take place other than when a specific emergency is involved.

**BASIC POLICY (Continued):**

- Overtime operations will be extended to emergency situations and the servicing of school bus routes, and can only be approved by the Highway Commissioner, County Manager, or Road Supervisor.
- Persons and entities performing snow removal on county roads with their own equipment and resources will not be reimbursed, unless reimbursement is authorized by the designated county representative prior to the commencement of work. All authorizations shall be confirmed with a written statement from the county commissioners.

**WINTER CLOSURE OF ROAD SEGMENTS**

Within the Elko County Road System there are segments of the system that will not, under normal circumstances and conditions, be subject to winter maintenance and snow removal. The rationale and reasoning for no winter maintenance and snow removal on such designated road segments shall include one or more of the following factors:

- Another road access better and more reasonably serves the area.
- There are no full time residences served by the road segment.
- Winter maintenance and snow removal due to terrain and elevation factors is not practical or economically feasible.

**PRIORITIES**

Priorities for winter maintenance and snow plowing shall be based on the following criteria:

- Emergency situations where no other options exist such as helicopter or aircraft, snowcat and snowmobile to expedite the response action.
- School bus routes.
- Population (residential) density serviced.
- County dedicated and maintained roads.

**PRIORITIES (Continued):**

- Public dedicated roads (streets), but not county maintained.
- Private roads pursuant to N.R.S. 244.273 provisions.

Emergency Definition:

- Emergency is a situation involving an illness or accident threatening an individual's life or health.
- Less severe illness or accident requiring prompt medical attention to prevent development of complications and/or impairment.
- Shortage of groceries, fuel, hay and etc. are **FORESEEABLE EVENTS AND CONDITIONS** that rural residents must assume responsibility for providing over reasonable periods of time rather than on a day to day basis. A shortage is a pending need and not an emergency.

**PRIVATE ROAD MAINTENANCE AND SNOW REMOVAL**

Private road maintenance and snow removal is subject to the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes 244.273:

**244.273 Use of county's equipment on private road; conditions.** The board of county commissioners of each county may authorize the use of county highway patrols and snowplows on private roads if:

1. The board declares an emergency; or
2. The board deems such use to be in the best interest of the county. The board shall not deem such use to be in the best interest of the county unless:
  - (a) The equipment is being used for routine county business in the area where the private roads are located; and
  - (b) The use of the equipment on private roads does not interfere with the normal operations of the county.

If the board authorizes the use of a county highway patrol or snowplow on a private road pursuant to this section, the equipment must be operated by an employee of the county. The board may require the owner to pay the county the prevailing rental rate for the use of such equipment.

(Added to NRS by 1959, 496; A 1995, 68)

## **SNOW PLOWING DAMAGE**

Any claims for damages to property may be submitted to the Elko County Manager in writing if the following criteria is met:

- Not in a descriptive right-of-way or easement.

Elko County claims a minimum total prescriptive right-of-way of 60', which is measured from the center of the existing road out 30' on each side.

- No obstructions were placed in the right-of-way or easement to hinder normal snow removal operation.
- Posts, boards, poles and wire, broken or pulled down by the weight of the snow or melting snow is not considered snow plowing damage.
- All users of right-of-ways and easements place snow markers of not less than 8' high on any objects that could be subject to snow removal damage.

Property replacement shall be based on the following:

- Wire fencing and steel posts shall be amortized on 30 year life. Wood fence and posts at 20 years.
- No replacement of property that has been placed in the right-of-way or easement.
- Any replacement shall be of equal quality.

**ELKO COUNTY HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY  
FOR SNOW REMOVAL**

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| <b>ELKO SHOP</b>                           | -- | 3 - TRUCK PLOWS WITH SANDERS<br>D-6 CAT<br>2 - PATROL WITH V-PLOW |
| <b>WELLS SHOP</b>                          | -- | 2 - TRUCK PLOW WITH SANDERS<br>2 - PATROLS WITH V-PLOWS           |
| <b>MIDAS</b>                               | -- | PATROL WITH V-PLOW  |
| <b>JARBIDGE</b>                            | -- | PATROL WITH V-PLOW  |
| <b>LAMOILLE</b>                            | -- | PATROLS WITH V-PLOW   |
| <b>PLEASANT VALLEY</b>                     | -- | PATROL WITH V-PLOW  |
| <b>TRAIL CREEK (MTN CITY)</b>              | -- | PATROL WITH V-PLOW  |
| <b>INDEPENDENCE VALLEY<br/>(TUSCARORA)</b> | -- | PATROL WITH V-PLOW  |
| <b>NORTH RUBY VALLEY<br/>(ARTHUR)</b>      | -- | PATROL WITH V-PLOW  |
| <b>RUBY VALLEY</b>                         | -- | PATROL WITH V-PLOW  |

## PREVAILING RENTAL RATE – 6/1/10

### These rates include FUEL, OIL, and OPERATOR:

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 950 CAT Loader or IT38    | \$100.00 per hour |
| 2. 966 CAT Loader            | \$140.00 per hour |
| 3. Transport Truck w/Trailer | \$145.00 per hour |
| 4. D-6 CAT Dozer             | \$125.00 per hour |
| 5. 436, 426, 420 CAT Backhoe | \$ 85.00 per hour |
| 6. Pickup Truck              | \$ 50.00 per hour |
| 7. Snow Plow w/Sander        | \$100.00 per hour |
| 8. 120 Motor Grader          | \$100.00 per hour |
| 9. 140 Motor Grader          | \$150.00 per hour |