

# ATTENTION!!!!

## SNOW PLOW POLICY – GARFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

As winter approaches, residents, motorists and property owners need to be prepared for severe winter conditions, especially because we live in a rural area with periods of very hazardous winter driving conditions. Motorists need to be prepared for very hazardous roadway conditions, including blizzard conditions, extreme cold, drifting snow, compact snow and ice on roadways and times where there is little or no visibility.

Motorists are strongly advised to be “equipped” for winter driving, including but not limited to chains, shovel, blankets, cell phone, snow tires, food, water, winter clothing (coats, gloves, shoes, hats), etc. Expect to be “Snowed-In” at times and unable to drive on the county roads until such time the roads can be plowed.

Garfield County does not have the financial resources to maintain county roads to the same level of service as does the State Highway System. The County Road Department is responsible for plowing approximately 137 centerline miles of paved rural roads and 249 centerline miles of gravel roads. That equates to approximately 1038 pass miles of plowing to get over our roadway system one time. We currently operate 5 trucks, 4 graders and 2 front end loaders during a typical snow removal operation. Trucks are typically not used to remove snow on gravel roadways as they are prone to removing a significant amount of gravel from the roadway.

We will attempt to provide plowing and sanding services seven days a week, except during periods of time when weather conditions are too severe. The Road Department schedules and assigns operators and equipment to plow specific routes based on the priorities listed below. We typically only sand intersections and steep grades, so drive appropriately and expect rapid changes in the condition on the roadway. During extreme weather events, residents and motorist should expect extended road closures as a result of drifting and blowing snow. It is not uncommon for roadways to be closed for a week or more, especially the gravel roadways.

Plowing priorities are as follows:

### **COUNTY ROAD REPORTS**

For County Roads only.

**(509) 843 – 1301**

Mon – Thurs

6:30 am – 5:00pm

*Closed Fridays except when  
plows are out.*

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Sheriff Department

**(509) 843 – 3494**

1. **Emergencies:** declared by the Sheriff will be responded to at any time of day or night.
2. **Schools:** Bus routes are plowed Monday through Friday unless severe drifting and white-out conditions force suspension until wind/weather conditions subside. Typically, snow workdays start at 5:00AM as determined by the County Engineer and continue throughout the day as necessary to provide safe travel for buses and local motorists.
3. **Mail Routes:** Plows will focus upon mail routes once school bus routes are opened.
4. **Rural Roads:** Plows will be available for rural roads serving residences, farms, ranches and livestock feeding areas once school and mail routes are open. Motorists and residents with emergencies must contact Garfield County Sheriff. **Call 911 for Emergencies.**

Severe weather conditions that jeopardize safety of our personnel or equipment, as determined by the County Engineer, may cause temporary suspension of plowing operations until conditions improve. Plowing operations may also be suspended when there is not a reasonable assurance the road will remain passable for 6 hours (more or less).

Minor Snow events, with minor drifting and limited accumulations, may not be plowed, especially during non-working hours/days, depending on the severity of road conditions. This especially applies to Gravel Roads. The County Engineer, or designee, is responsible for making the determination whether or not plowing is necessary.

**Removal of berms left by snow plows at residences and field approaches are “not” the county’s responsibility.**