

# LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ROAD AND BRIDGE



## SNOW REMOVAL AND OTHER WINTER TIPS

### Extreme Circumstances

County Roads may not receive same day maintenance. First priority roads will be plowed and kept open on extreme snow days.

Second and third priority roads may not receive attention on those days.

Usually there are two separate snow removal operations. The first is during the storm itself and consists of passes with the plows and need-sanding to keep the roads open prioritizing school bus routes and high service level roads. The second operation begins when the storm abates. It consists of widening the traveled portion of the road, pushing snow back and plowing out wide spots on the roadways. It may be several days between the first plowing and final cleanup.

Unfortunately, each operation may result in a berm of snow across private driveways or encroachments to county roads. The County does not have the resources to keep driveways clear. This is the responsibility of each individual resident or business

### Private And Residential Plowing

It is unlawful for any person to deposit snow plowed from a private driveway, road or any other source, onto any County Road per C.R.S. §43-5-301. Homeowners and contractors are advised not to push snow across the County Road

Lake County Public Works Road Division's goal is to provide snow and ice control, along with keeping the roadways clean of dust and gravel in a professional and proactive manner. We do this prioritizing our roadways according to traffic volumes, public safety requirements, bus routes and access for emergency equipment.

To accomplish this goal our fleet of snow fighting equipment is readied as soon as snow is forecasted.

Lake County Road and Bridge plows approximately 250 lane miles of roads.

County Roads are categorized on a priority basis and the roads with the higher priorities are plowed first such as school bus routes, high service level roads and roads that access emergency services. Although snow removal crews normally begin clearing the roads at 5:30 am, some of the lower priority roads may not be cleared until later. Hills and corners are sanded for safety.

### Normal Circumstance

Days with measurable snow amounts, routes will be plowed in their entirety.

Days without snow, crews will cleanup and push back snow routes as needed. All roads may not receive attention on those days.

On regular working days plowing operations will begin at 5:30 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m.

## Winter Driving Basics

To ensure your vehicle is in good working condition follow a check list.

### **Automotive Checklist:**

- Ignition
- Battery
- Lights
- Brakes
- Wiper Blades
- Antifreeze Level
- Fuel System
- Heater/Defroster
- Tire Treads

### **Safety Checklist:**

- Flares/Reflectors
- Blanket
- Shovel
- Scraper
- Tire Chains
- Spare Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Blankets/Sleeping Bag
- Booster Cable
- Snow Brush
- Flashlight
- Chain/Tow Strap

## Winter Driving Tips

For your winter driving pleasure consider the following techniques:

**Maintain Traction-** Start and stop gradually. Drive at a steady speed, avoiding sudden starts or stops. Accelerate slightly when approaching a hill, then maintain a steady speed going up, gear down (down shift) to avert wear on breaks and sustain control.

**Skid-**To avoid skids, drive sensibly and steady, anticipate turns and lane changes. If the vehicle begins to skid, remove your foot from the accelerator or break and steer in the direction of the skid. After the vehicle regains control, straighten and proceed.

**Braking-**Use gentle braking pressure on slippery road conditions. To avoid locking wheels, use a gentle pumping action on disk brakes. Anti-Lock brakes systems work in this manner. Drive through curves at a safe, steady speed and gear down (down Shift) for both uphill and downhill.

## Stranded

If the vehicle slipped off the road, and there is no shelter in sight, you are stranded. Do not leave your vehicle. Ensure the exhaust is clear of snow and keep a window slightly open for ventilation. The vehicle should run only a few minutes at a time for warmth. Use your emergency supplies. Dress in layers, cover your entire body with blankets or sleeping bag, and for two or more huddle together for warmth.



**Thanks and be careful out on the roads.**

**Lake County Public Works**

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