

## **Town of LaValle Snowplowing Policy**

The Town of LaValle Roads are subject to freezing rain, Ice, snow and drifting snow, at any time during fall, winter, or spring. Normally winter storms can be expected during the months of November to April. The responsibility for keeping traffic moving on the Town of Lavalles approximately 75+ miles of roads and cul-de-sacs following the snow and ice storms lies with the Town's Public Works Director, under the direction of the La Valle Town Board.

Approximately 20 of the 75 miles are classified for priority winter maintenance practices. The balance of roads and cul-de-sacs will be plowed and salted at a lower priority, except for an emergency situation. The priority of the Town is to handle all emergency situations first. All maintenance equipment has Scanner Two way radios and the Lead Operator is monitoring all emergency channels. Emergencies take immediate priority

The Town goal is to maintain the roads in as good winter driving conditions as weather, equipment, and budget constraints allow.

Planning and preparing for snow and ice removal is difficult due to the uniqueness of each storm. No two storms are ever identical. The interrelationship of factors such as rate of snowfall, moisture content, accumulation, temperature, time of day, and wind velocity determine the uniqueness of each storm. Town operations must be flexible enough to combat the unique aspect of each storm.

The amount of snow accumulation, temperature, and time of day at which the storm occurs have a significant effect. High wind conditions may cause roads to quickly fill in again with drifted snow. The temperature at the time of the storm will also affect conditions. Snow falling on warm pavement will clear off easily. A moderate storm, coupled with a prolonged subfreezing period, will greatly increase the removal effort. Light dry snow handles easier than heavy wet snow.

### **Emergencies**

During snow and ice storms, the Town Public Works Crew will respond to emergency conditions to the extent that's practicable. The Town will not respond to unverified emergency requests called in from the public. The request must come from the appropriate emergency response agency (i.e., fire, law enforcement, ambulance). The Town Public Works Crew will not plow or sand on private property without authorization from the Public Works Director and Town Chair, and it must be an emergency. The Town will not take any responsibility for removal of snow that is plowed into private driveways from the road clearing operation. Driveway maintenance is the property owner's responsibility.

The Town uses salt on all roads. Priority roads will be salted heavier than cul-de-sacs, depending on the roads relationship to the sun and shaded areas. The Town of La Valle may also use a new salting system called pre-wetting to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the road surface.

## Conditions

This Policy will be adjusted to meet specific storm circumstances. Listed below are several conditions:

- Plowing of snow will be limited in storms early in the fall and late spring, due to the lack of frost to support the snow plows. Plowing may be limited on paved roads during spring break up.
- Operations may be reduced if there is an equipment breakdown and / or qualified operators are not available.
- The Town Public Works Chair has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations. The Town Equipment Operators will also follow Sauk County's lead on this situation, should Sauk County pull their equipment off the roads. This may be done in severe storm conditions when there is danger to equipment operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue.
- The State of Wisconsin Statute 81.15 states that a municipality has three (3) weeks to plow snow off roads; however, it is the Town's policy to plow as soon as possible.

## Where and who to call for information and complaints

Information about road conditions and operations can be obtained from the Town of Lavallo Municipal Building at 608-985-7695 during regular working hours. After hours, residents can call the Town Chair and supervisors at their respective residences. The Town Board will not give out employee phone numbers. Call the town hall for current plowing operations, or check the public notices page of the town website for updates as they occur.

Complaints on practices and procedures should be directed to the Public Works Director or Town Chair. Unresolved complaints will be discussed with the Public Works Committee and referred to the Town Board if needed. Final action on unresolved complaints rests with the Town Board.

## Mailboxes

While plow equipment operators are advised to be cautious near mailboxes, on occasion mailboxes are struck. A properly installed mailbox will permit the snow plow to clear the snow near it. Operators must report a mailbox strike to the Public Works Director. It is important that the town investigate each and every occurrence. See the attached Mailbox policy.

When justified, the town will repair mailboxes after snow plowing operations of the current storm have been completed and as weather allows. The Town assumes no liability for mailbox damage or losses for mailboxes that do not meet United States Postal Service Standards or are not installed as specified in the Mailbox Policy.

## Lawn Damage

The Town assumes no liability for lawn damage or losses. Most lawn damage will occur because a truck with the plow and plow wings rides over the shoulder and rips up the sod adjacent to the shoulder. This usually occurs more often in early or late snow storms when there is little or no frost in the ground. The Town will not repair lawns that are in the right of way. Right of way is defined as 33 feet from the center of road. Additionally, there should be no obstructions or objects placed in road right of way.

## Parking

The Town of La Valle has a parking ordinance on some Town Roads clearly stated in the Town's Code of Ordinances. Parking on cul-de-sacs is permitted up to 48 hours. But if the Public Works Director deems a road unsafe to plow because of vehicles in the way, the cul-de-sac will not be plowed out until all the vehicles are removed from the road surface. The Public Works Committee Chair will be notified on which cul-de-sacs have not been cleared of snow. **The Town of La Valle asks all residents to please remove all vehicles from roads and road right of ways in all snow or ice events.**

## Vehicular Damage

Anytime a Town vehicle is involved in an accident with another vehicle, the appropriate law enforcement officials will be notified to investigate at the scene. It is important that all crashes are reported no matter how minor. It is a violation of the law if such accidents are not reported to the proper authorities immediately. As conditions allow, the Public Works Director may go to the scene and perform his own investigation. It is important to have a written police report on file for any future claims against the Town which may be indicated.

Town employee drivers must also report any damage to the vehicle they have been driving when it occurs. The Director should be consulted as to whether it is necessary for the Town Vehicle to be brought into the garage immediately or if the damage can be inspected at the end of the operation.

If there is an injury at a crash, the driver of the Town vehicle will be required to take a drug test. The drug test will be completed as soon as possible after the accident. We will also ask the **Sauk County Sheriff's Department** to investigate any injury and provide the town with a written report.

## Driveways

The Town does not have any obligation to clean the snow out of any driveways. Considering the large number of driveways in the Town, it would be too costly and not practical to use Town personnel and equipment to clean private driveways.

Pushing or blowing snow or other materials onto or across town roads and cul-de-sacs from private driveways can cause accidents and death, and is prohibited by Wisconsin State Statutes 86.01, 86.07, 346.94, 941.30, and by town policy. Violations of the statute or town policy will be referred to the proper law enforcement agency (Town of LaValle Police Department, Sauk County Sheriff's Department).

## Temporary Snow Markers

The Town of LaValle will not be liable for breakage or replacement of temporary snow markers. If the markers are deemed a road hazard, they will be removed by the Town of La Valle Police Department and/or the Public Works Department.

## Civic Events

The Town of LaValle will plow areas for Civic Events if and when the Equipment Operators have time. All roads and emergency areas must be cleared of snow before any employee will plow for these events. The LaValle Town Board requires all event organizers to give the Public Works Department two weeks' notice on all events.

## Routes

The crew will plow priority roads first and considers all school bus routes as top priority. As feasible, they will then plow other roads, intersections, cul-de-sacs, and salt the curves, intersections, and hills.

During a light to moderate (less than 4") snowstorm, the roads will be plowed. The intersections and cul-de-sacs will be plowed as time permits to save on overtime costs.

During a light to moderate snowstorm the crew will use up to three trucks. Everything will be plowed but not cleaned up to prevent overtime costs. The roads will be cleaned up the following day as needed.

When there is more than 4" of snow, the Town Crew will plow all roads using the following equipment.

- Grader with a wing and a one way plow
- Truck #1 (Dump truck with two way plow and wing front and rear spinners)
- Truck #2 (Dump truck with two way plow and wing front and rear spinners)
- 1 Ton Truck with two way plow
- Loader Tractor with two way plow

A severe storm is when there is more than 6" of snow and/or drifting. Priority roads may be plowed more than once before the balance of roads are done. It will be the Town's Policy to plow all subdivision roads before re-plowing any subdivision roads. When the snow storm stops, all roads will be plowed and salted. **The Town does not have Trucks on the roads 24 hours of the day.** The Crew is usually out on the roads about 2:00 am. If it is a continuing snowstorm snow operations will shut down after about 12 hours for needed rest, unless there are school buses on the roads. The crew will start about 2:00 am the next morning.

## **Priority Roads (most traveled roads and/or school bus routes)**

Branton Rd

Pearson Rd

Douglas Rd

Pierce Rd

Dutch Hollow Rd

Schuette Rd

Heidrich Rd

Section 11 Rd

LaValle Rd

Thompson RD

Minicreek Rd

Wegner Rd

## **Available Equipment**

2000 Dodge 1 ton truck 10' two way plow, no spreader

#12008 Sterling Truck with a 12' two way plow, 8' wing, and a live bottom Spreader front or rear

#2 2008 Sterling Truck with a 12' two way plow, 8' wing, and a live bottom Spreader front or rear

1996 Grader with 12' plow, 14' moldboard blade, 12' Wing

2008 John Deere Tractor with 10' two way plow

Polaris ATV with 5' two way plow for small projects

Adopted, December 12, 2011