

Snow and Ice Policy

February 19, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Snow and Ice Policy is to provide all personnel who are involved in snow and ice removal a single source document which clearly defines the City of Russell's policies and procedures in all snow and ice operations.

All snow and ice control operations are considered emergency in nature due to public safety and economic impact to the community. Consequently, regardless of the time of day or week, snow and ice operations will be accomplished as expeditiously as possible in conjunction with the priorities outlined in this policy.

The snow and ice season in Kansas can begin as early as October and terminate as late as mid-April. The rate of accumulation of snowfall or icing is affected by atmosphere temperature, road surface temperature, moisture content, wind direction and velocity, to include intervals between storms. Each storm is unique. Therefore, while this policy tries to cover the major operations during a snow or ice storm, it must be recognized that there must be sufficient flexibility within the plan, to provide for differences or contingencies as they occur.

This policy supersedes all other plans or policies previously used by the City of Russell for snow and ice control.

SNOW AND ICE POLICY

The policy of the City of Russell is to clear snow and ice in the following priority:

- US Highway 281
- US Highway 40
- Emergency Snow Routes
- Public Safety Facilities
- Municipal Airport runway and taxiway
- School Loading Zones on City Right of Way (on days school is in session)
- Main Street Business District
- Non-snow routes

Alleys will be cleared only in the event that refuse or electric services need access and find an alley impassable.

If a property has angle parking inset from the curb line, it is the responsibility of the landowner to clear the parking area.

Plowing and de-icing will be conducted as expeditiously as possible and will be achieved through a combination, as necessary, of plowing and salt/sanding. The standard for snow clearing operations is to make the roadways passable. The City does not have a bare pavement policy.

City personnel will not clear plowed-in drive-ways; this is the citizen's responsibility. Plowing of streets will result in snow being plowed into driveways and on sidewalks. Moving the snow back into street right of ways will result in snow being plowed back into the driveway and sidewalks.

A "Traffic Emergency" can be declared by the City Manager or in his absence the Chief of Police. In the event of a declaration of a "Traffic Emergency", residents who have vehicles parked on emergency snow routes will have six hours to move their vehicles after the declaration has been declared. The city will tow all parked vehicles located on emergency snow routes as necessary¹. Towed vehicles will be towed to the city impound lot and the vehicle may not be recovered until towing and storage charges are paid. A snow "Traffic Emergency" will be announced to local media and the city's website and social media outlets.

Snow removal damage that may occur to private property should be reported to the City Building as soon as possible at 483-6311.

SALT AND SAND OPERATIONS

The city will apply sand or a salt/sand mixture at the controlled intersections throughout the city. Priority will be:

- Public Safety Facilities – RRH, Fire, EMS, Sheriff and Police
- Streets surrounding school facilities (on days school is in session)
- Main Street Business District
- Other controlled intersections as needed.

Brine will be applied to the length of US Hwy 281 and US Hwy 40 if conditions are suitable for application. This is done by the Russell County Highway Department with coordination or the Street Superintendent or Public Works Director.

SAFETY

In the event that the storms severity and intensity is such as to cause unsafe conditions for City personnel clearing and/or de-icing streets, operations will cease pending weather conditions improving as not to pose a severe threat to city personnel.

All operators will operate snow/ice control equipment in a safe manner. Speeds will be kept to a safe minimum sufficient to plow and wind row snow to the shoulder.

Operators will ensure their assigned vehicle and plow is fully operational to include emergency vehicle lighting. Any deficiencies will be reported immediately to the Street Superintendent.

Authority to exceed 8 hours in a shift will be determined by the Public Works Director or Street Superintendent.

Operators will wear proper high-visibility safety apparel and appropriate winter clothing to ensure cold weather injuries are not received.

¹ City Ordinance 1575