



# Town of North Kingstown Highway Division of Public Works Operation: Snow Removal Making Winter Roads Safer

This information is provided to help everyone understand the Town's policies on winter snow, our procedures for sanding, plowing, parking bans, mailboxes, lawn/sprinkler head damage, recycling bins, driveways, and windrows. Who is responsible, how you can help and who do you call?

**THE TOWN** follows weather reports and observes conditions if there is a threat of a storm. The Superintendent calls in the snow crew initially to spread material (salt/sand mix) on the primary and connector roads, intersections, hills and school bus routes, depending on the time of day or night. Our priority is to keep these roads passable for emergency services, such as Police, Fire and Rescue.

The crew begins to plow when the snow has reached 2"-3" depth, and the same priority is followed, primary roads first, side streets and cul-de-sacs last (usually). The Town is divided into 12 assigned districts, and each district's driver will follow a pattern until a complete circuit has been opened up. When the storm ends, the drivers go back and widen the roads, pushing back the snow beyond the edge of the road. If needed, more material is applied to the plowed road. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

**PARKING BAN** – per Town Ordinance, Sec. 11-36. The Town can institute a parking ban on Town streets whenever one inch or more of snowfall accumulates on the road surfaces. Bans are announced by the local media – TV and radio, but should be considered to be in effect during most snowstorms. Your vehicle may be towed (at your expense) if it is parked in violation of the ban. If your car is off the road, the plows can clear the roads more efficiently and quickly. The parking ban stays in effect until the plowing is complete.

**THROWING (debris) SNOW ON HIGHWAY** – State Regulation Title 31-22-9. This means that when you shovel or plow out your driveway or sidewalk; do not throw the snow in the road so as to constitute a hazard (or it having to be re-plowed). If you hire a contractor to plow/shovel your driveway, please advise him of this regulation – he may be unaware.

When the plow trucks go by, they generate **windrows** – the pesky ridge of snow at the bottom of your driveways. We do not do this intentionally – it is a byproduct of plowing, and we ask that if you shovel it before the end of the storm, that you cast it to the right of your driveway (facing the street) into your yard to minimize another windrow when the plow returns, helping to keep the road and your driveway clear. Unless there is a huge, unmovable windrow, it is the resident's responsibility to clear the passage. Sometimes we make mistakes, and are willing to correct the problem.

The **TOWN RIGHT-OF-WAY** is a *minimum* of 5 feet from the edge of the road (it varies by street). One of the uses of the R-O-W is for the placement of snow during plowing operations. Per Town ordinance (Sec. 17, Article III Excavation of Public Highway) no person shall excavate or dig into any portion of any of the public highways of the Town without having first obtained a special permit from the Director of Public Works. Permanently placing any sort of structure along the edge of the road would require such a permit.

**BASKETBALL HOOPS** – It is the Town's policy that any basketball hoop or permanent structure of any kind within the R-O-W is prohibited. The Town therefore is not liable for damage to any basketball hoops/structures illegally placed in the Town right-of-way. We would appreciate the removal of any temporary basketball hoop/structure from the edge of the road when not in use, and more importantly, during snow storms where plowing of the roads is required.

**SPRINKLER HEADS/SHRUBS/LANDSCAPING/ETC** -- requirements for sprinkler systems, et al, to be set back from Town right-of-way, holding the Town not responsible for damage within the R-O-W.

**LAWN/PROPERTY EDGES** – within the Town's right-of-way, plow-damaged area will be raked out, loamed and seeded in warmer weather. Please call us and let us know the location.

**MAILBOXES** – When your mailbox is laying down on the job, it's usually been the victim of heavy snow thrown by a moving plow. Sometimes it may have been damaged by a plow because of poor visibility during the storm, or unfortunately, a hit-and-run. Mailboxes are installed within the right-of-way at the owner's risk. There are precautions you can take to protect your mailbox, such as inspecting the post to make sure it is not rotted, post markers, or place it as far back from the edge of the road as allowable by Post Office standards. If the Town assumes responsibility for the damage, your mailbox will be replaced with a black standard version and wooden post (new posts have to wait for warmer weather, but we will do what we can to help).

**RECYCLING CARTS** – We try to stay on schedule; however, due to the nature and intensity of the storm we may sometimes be delayed. Waste Haulers, the town's contracted recycling company, decides if and when to pull the trucks from the road during storms. Stay tuned to media outlets for any cancellations. Please keep your carts curbside, not in the road where they would create an obstacle and safety hazard for the plows and other vehicles. Please take in your empty carts as soon as possible so the wind does not blow them over. We also have recycling drop-off at our Transfer Station if you opt to do it yourself during storm season (or any other time of the year). If we truly have missed your house or you have further questions, you may call Waste Haulers Dispatch at (401) 643-6503, identifying yourself as a North Kingstown resident, or the Town's Recycling Coordinator at 294-3331, ext. 601 M-F, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, excluding holidays.

**STORM DRAINS/CATCH BASINS** – Melting snow can create a flooding problem if leaves and debris cover the opening. If you are aware of a problem area, please call the Highway Dept. with the location and we will respond as quickly as possible to remedy the situation.

**\*STATE ROADS** – Most State roads can be identified by a route number, i.e. Rte. 1 (Post Rd, Tower Hill Rd);

Rte 1A (Boston Neck Rd , Brown St, W. Main St); Rte 102 (Ten Rod Rd, Phillips St ); Rte 403 (Devil's Ft Rd, Davisville Rd); Rte 2, Rte 4, Rte 138 etc. Others would be Exeter Rd W., Ferry Rd E, Frenchtown Rd. Liberty Rd, Namcook Rd, Quaker Ln, Railroad Av and Slocum Rd – these roads are the responsibility of the STATE garage at the Belleville Facility 294-6156.

**\*PRIVATE ROADS and DRIVEWAYS** – are the responsibility of the owner/association.

\*The Town will provide assistance to Fire/Rescue and Police as requested during emergencies.

**PERSONAL SAFETY** – If you do not have to go out during the storm, please stay home and enjoy it! If you do go out, be observant of the road conditions, and do not pass the snowplows. Please keep children away from road edges during storms and until clean-up operations are completed. If you know someone in your neighborhood that is elderly, lives alone or has a medical condition, please be caring and give them a call or lend them a helping hand.

**THE NATURE OF EACH STORM** varies with temperature, wind, rate of snowfall, time of day, duration of storm, workday or weekend, and can present challenges. Light storms, heavy storms, blizzards, drifting snow, ice buildup on tree limbs and power lines are also a factor in how we 'attack' the clean-up operation. Other factors would be equipment availability, possible breakdowns, time for maintenance, refueling, manpower, and necessary 'rest' breaks. We appreciate your patience and cooperation, and if you have further questions, please give us a call.

Highway Division of Public Works:	Superintendent Streets Foreman Office Clerk	268-1500 x 620 268-1500 x 621 268-1500 x 622
Public Works Administration:	Director Programs Coordinator	268-1500 x 600 268-1500 x 601