

Town of Richland Highway Department

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Highway Department (315)298-2567

EMERGENCIES- DIAL 911

Our Mission Statement

The Town of Richland Highway Department is dedicated to providing a safe, courteous, dependable and economical service, wherever and whenever possible for all our residents.

Call out after a storm event shall begin @ 3:30 a.m. a start time of 3:30 a.m. should allow all routes to be treated by 6:30. For storm events that are after or during the a.m. commute, maintenance runs will begin at approximately 12:30 noon to allow for school bus

routes to be treated before the normal dismissal time. Should precipitation continue; runs will continue until evening commute ends. Under most circumstances after 7:00 p.m. there will be one crew to cover main traveled roads. Severe weather conditions (i.e. freezing rain/roadway icing) may dictate that maintenance might continue after the 7:00 p.m. end or before the 3:30 a.m. start time frame for the safety of the highway department personnel.

An important step in dealing with snowfall is road and street sanding/salting. Top priority is given to the Town's main roads. Those roads are routes that the Town has found to be the heaviest year-round traffic and usually are major arteries running north/south or east/west that have double yellow centerlines. School bus routes are also given top priority.

The snow removal process starts when frozen precipitation begins falling. Operations initiated with the application of salt and sand blend to the roads or streets are clear or material application is no longer effective due to the depth of the snow.

When the Snowfall Continues

When two or three inches of snow have accumulated and more is expected, snow is more economically removed by plowing rather than salting/sanding. Town Highway Department personnel will plow all roads that the Town of Richland is responsible for performing winter maintenance on. Our first responsibility is to open the main roads. These arterials are the key to providing safe access for emergency vehicles as well as maintaining the steady flow of traffic since most residents live within a short distance of such a route.

The plows then continue to plow all roads on the route to "open up" each one in sequence. If the storm continues in intensity, the trucks

remain in that same pattern until the storm abates. At that time, the trucks begin to ‘widen out’ all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back to behind the ditch line and clearing intersections.

Remember, trained crews work during these storms to keep the roads open and passable. If you wish to report a hazardous condition, call the Highway Department at 315-298-2567. If there is a medical emergency, call 911.

After the Storm is Over

Crews continue to monitor all roads for icy spots and areas where winds redeposit the snow in traffic lanes. Usually an application of salt/sand is applied to all roads and streets, so the riding surface remains drivable. If the accumulation is particularly heavy, the Town may use larger equipment like loaders to clear intersections or areas that have received wind driven drifts. You may wish to avoid a potential problem and be of assistance to your neighbors by cleaning off a catch basin, culvert entrance or shoveling out a nearby fire hydrants. Please avoid creating a hazard by discarding snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway.

Parking and Travel Regulations

There is no “on road parking” in the Town of Richland from November 15th through April 15th of each year. This includes areas adjacent to the road surface (i.e road shoulders and driveway entrances within the right-of-way). Vehicles parked illegally or abandoned on roads are subject to towing at the owner’s expense as well as being ticketed by the Oswego County Sheriff’s Department. As soon as you are aware that bad weather is on the way, make sure your vehicle is off the street. This protects your car from being splashed with slush, becoming plowed in, or being hit by

the snowplow or by-passing vehicles. Best of all, the snowplow has space to move the snow to.

Mailboxes and Newspaper Boxes

Mail and newspaper boxes placed in the highway right-of-way are allowed there merely as a convenience to the homeowner and the delivery persons. While the Highway Department makes every effort to avoid damaging these structures, it may at times, depending on visibility, be unavoidable. Therefore, the Town of Richland takes no responsibility for damaged mailboxes or newspaper boxes. Most mailbox damage is a direct result of snow being cast off the wing, not direct wing/plow contact. In certain situations, at the Highway Superintendent's discretion, a mailbox that has been physically struck by a Town of Richland vehicle may be repaired or replaced by the department.

Helping us help You

Be Prepared, Be Aware and Be Patient!

Before it snows, remember last year's problems and try to tackle them in advance. If you do your own snow removal, have your tools and supplies handy. Shovels, snowblowers, rock salt and sand should be ready before the season begins. If you hire someone to do your snow removal, make those arrangements early. It can be difficult to find someone in the middle of a storm. Plan to have adequate food supplies on hand. Keep flashlights, battery powered radio and emergency equipment on hand in case of disruption in the power supply. Please do not go out during or immediately after a snowstorm unless it is truly necessary. Crews have many hours of hard work to complete their snow clearing operations. Less traffic on the road means that we will be able to clear roads more quickly

and completely. Under the best of conditions, it will take us at least 3 hours from the time it stops snowing completely to complete our snow removal operations. Remember, whether it is your driveway for which you are responsible or the 83 miles of town and county roads for which we are responsible, snow is an arduous and time-consuming task. Please understand that the Highway Department cannot shovel ridges or openings from your driveway entrance. Nor can we plow private property.

Tips & Suggestions

When shoveling out the mouth of your driveway, throw it to the right of your driveway as you face the street or downstream. Throwing or plowing snow in the road is not only illegal, but it can also create a patch of snow and ice that freezes over and causes a hazardous condition. Besides, it will only be redeposited when the plow comes around again. If possible, finish cleaning your driveway entrance after the final widening pass has been completed. The final widening pass is usually completed approximately 8 to 10 hours after snow stops completely. This, of course, depends on the severity of the storm. Plan alternate ways and extra time to travel to main routes and to your place of employment. **Remember:** Slow down, brake slowly and allow plenty of room between you and the vehicle ahead of you. During times of reduced visibility, watch for pedestrians, snow removal equipment, and disabled vehicles. Maintain your vehicle properly. Take time to thoroughly clean and defrost your vehicle's windows before "hitting" the highway. Equip your car with snow tires and always keep your headlights and taillights on and clean.

THANK YOU...TOWN OF RICHLAND HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT