

Village of Angel Fire  
Snow Removal Policy – 2013-14

Although not mandated by State Statutes or the Village Code, the Village of Angel Fire recognizes the public safety issues and economic impact benefits to snow removal and de-icing applications to Village Roadways.

**Policy.** The Village may not respond to the first couple of snowfall events with snow removal equipment. The determining factor to start snow removal is the frost line depth on the Village gravel or base course roadway surfaces, unless the depth of that snowfall warrants removal.

The preservation of the roadway surface is paramount over snow removal in the months of October, November, April & May. Plowing wet snow from a gravel or base course road removes the surfacing materials and creates a muddy and more dangerous roadway. Additionally, the practice over several years has stripped away the surface depth of the roadways. It is important that we maintain six feet of surface depth over water lines located beneath the roadway to prevent those water lines from freezing.

Once the gravel or base course road surfaces are determined to be sufficiently frozen, the Village Streets Department will perform snow removal/cindering on Village roadways with all subsequent snowfall events per the priorities listed below. To ensure the road surface integrity and prolong the life of snow plow blades, the snow plow trucks are equipped with skids that are fastened to bottom of the blade. This practice will leave a trace layer of snow. This trace layer assists in preserving the frost depth.

**Priorities.** The Village of Angel Fire is responsible for maintaining 130 liner miles of roadways with a street crew of six personnel equipped with 3 maintainer/graders with wing attachments and 4 snowplow/cindering trucks. With so many miles to cover with limited resources, it is necessary to prioritize snow removal. The Streets Department has coverage and a capability to respond to the changing road conditions 24/7 to clear snow and ice on Village streets based on the priorities below.

**Priority One** is the Village Commercial Core area and roadways determined to be Emergency Essential. These are the essential roadways utilized by Emergency Essential Services (Police, Fire & EMS), the Village's principle business area and the high residential density area bounded by Mountain View on the west, Valley Road on the north, Miller Lane on the east and South Angel Fire Road on the south.

**Priority Two** are all of the Collector Roads identified on the Village Streets and Thoroughfare Map. Those streets include Camino Grande, El Camino Real, Ute Valley Road, Via del Rey, Sarazen Terrace, Pine Valley, Champions Terrace, Country Club Drive, Sypglass Hill Drive, Valle Grande Trail South, Conchas Drive and Valle Grande Trail North.

**Priority Three** are all other Village maintained roadways.

**On-Street Parking.** It is a violation to park any vehicle on a Village residential roadway. Vehicles parked illegally during the snow removal process are subject to fines, towing and possible storage costs at the owners' expense. Additionally, if an illegally parked vehicle impedes snow removal, the snow plow driver can make the field determination to not remove snow in the vicinity of the illegally parked vehicle.

**Private Snow Removal Contractors.** When a village homeowner or a property manager retains a private snow removal contractor to remove snow from a driveway, parking lot or any other area, that snow must be maintained on the subject property. To place snow from a private property onto a public roadway can endanger other motorists and is a nuisance violation that will result in a citation. The Streets Department will document said violation and then remove the snow. Subsequently the Village will pursue a criminal nuisance complaint in Municipal Court against the property owner, property management company, and the private contractor.

**Encroachment Permitee.** Typical Village rights-of-way are sixty feet wide. Typical Village roadways are twenty-four feet wide. During construction of a home, the contractor or the property owner is issued an encroachment permit to connect their private driveway to the village roadway over the public right of way. The Village is not responsible for snow removal on any private improvements (driveway) on the public right of way. In removing snow from the roadway, residual snow will land on these private improvements. The owners of those private improvements are responsible for removing that snow. Removal of that snow is subject to the same conditions listed above and may not be moved back into public roadways.

**Damaged Property.** The Village right-of-way, including those areas between the road edge and the actual property line, is owned by the Village. Private property owners are permitted (by encroachment permit) to place objects such as landscaping, landscape features and driveways in the Village right-of-way. Property owners are responsible for maintenance, replacement or any damages to the objects on Village property caused by, but not limited to, snow removal, road reshaping/resurfacing, drainage repair or other Village Activities.

**Streets.** Snow removal crews sometimes work long hours to keep the streets safe. We ask for everyone's cooperation to help keep them safe as well. Remember, plow trucks and graders cannot stop or turn as readily as most vehicles. Please allow ample space for our equipment to maneuver freely.

**Driveways.** When plowing is required, snow berms are created across driveways. Removal of this snow in driveways is the responsibility of the property owner. The department tries to keep this problem to a minimum. We ask the citizens of Angel Fire to be patient and recognize that during the winter months there will be some inconvenience. Snow operations are labor intensive and equipment does fail on occasion.

Some frequently asked questions:

**Why isn't my road plowed when everyone else's is?**

Roads are plowed on a priority basis dependent on weather conditions. The Village will try to plow all roads during the same snow event if possible.

**Why can't the snowplow driver change the angle of the blade to avoid plowing snow into my driveway?**

Driveway maintenance (snow removal, cleaning, etc.) remains the responsibility of the property owner. The response time to relocate the plow blade angle makes it infeasible to try and blade snow away from driveways.

**After my driveway has been plowed the Village snowplows plow snow back into my driveway. Who is responsible for clearing the snow?**

The property owner or resident is responsible for clearing their driveway. Driveways are only an easement onto Village roads and are the responsibility of the property owner.

**Cindering Program:**

The Streets Department uses an average of 300 tons of a 50/50 mix of cinders and salt per winter season to improve traction on the Village roads. This is used primarily in the core area and on some collector roads.

**Safety Around Snow Equipment.** Please slow down and use caution when snow removal equipment is on the roads. Follow well behind the plow with your headlights on, staying clear of flying snow and cinder materials. Remember to avoid snowplow operator's blind spots by staying back at least 50 feet. Please keep in mind several trips may be necessary to clear the snow from the roads requiring the equipment to back up several times within the same location. Angel Fire had many narrow roads and blind curves, be especially cautious when negotiating curves during snow removal operations. Snow plowing is for everyone's safety, please drive cautiously around all snow removal equipment.