

# Turtlecreek Township 2015-2016 Snow Removal Policy

## **Snow Removal Policy**

The purpose of the Turtlecreek Township Snow Removal Policy is to provide the safest possible township roadway system and access routes for the motoring public, public transit, public schools, fire, police, emergency aid vehicles, the citizens of Turtlecreek Township. Understanding the policy cannot eliminate all the impacts or effects of a snow and/or ice emergency.

We do our best to clear snow from roads for safe travel. For mailboxes, we follow U.S. Postal Service Guidelines.

The information below is an excerpt of this policy provided from [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) under frequently asked questions.

## **What conditions or events may have prevented the delivery of my mail?**

### **“...Hazardous Weather**

Mail delivery service may be delayed or curtailed whenever streets or walkways present hazardous conditions to our carriers and/or vehicles. The Postal Service curtails delivery only after careful consideration, and only as a last resort. We appreciate your understanding of our responsibility for the safety of our employees, as well as of our customers.

- **Mailbox Blocked**

Customers are required, as a condition of delivery, to ensure that proper access is provided to mail receptacles. Proper access includes the removal of large accumulations of snow from the area around curb line receptacles and from sidewalks leading to door or other house-mounted receptacles. Without such access, the safety of the carrier is jeopardized.

If your mail cannot be delivered because accumulated snow prevents the carrier from reaching your box, you may choose any one of the following alternatives:

- Arrange with a neighbor to receive your mail.
- Put up a suitable temporary mail box (for example, a sturdy box).
- Meet the carrier at your box.
- Pick up your mail at the Post Office.

Your postmaster will be pleased to discuss these alternatives so that you may select the one most convenient for you. ...”

Please visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) for more information.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Does Turtlecreek Township plow all roads within its boundaries?**

Turtlecreek Township road crews plow only the roads that are classified as Township roads. Not all of the roads within the Turtlecreek Township's boundaries are the Township's responsibility. Some are the responsibility of the Warren County Engineer's, the City of Lebanon, or the State of Ohio. Maps associated with each jurisdiction are available online.

### **Which Township roads get plowed first?**

When it snows, hills are salted first. Subsequently, main roads and those roads that are crucial in getting the traffic flow from subdivision streets are prioritized. Next in priority are "cut through" routes. Subdivision streets are treated last.

### **What are some snow removal and travel tips?**

\*It is requested that residents delay non-essential travel until after the roads have been cleared, if possible.

\*When using a snow blower or plow to clear your driveway, please do not put the snow out in the street.

\*Do not park on the street during a snow emergency. Remove any obstruction from the right-of-way that would impair the salt truck (e.g. portable basketball hoops).

### **What are the procedures for calling out trucks for snow removal?**

The Sheriff's office, schools, or Warren County Emergency Services determines if there are hazardous road conditions. In such instances, Township trucks will be called out to conduct snow removal.

### **What is a snow emergency, how is it declared, and what do I need to do?**

A Snow Emergency is declared by the County Sheriff's Department.

**Level 1 Snow Emergency** means that roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads are also icy. Drive very cautiously.

**Level 2 Snow Emergency** means that roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roadways. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work.

**Level 3 Snow Emergency** means that all roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be out during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel. All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roadways may subject themselves to an arrest.

### **During a Winter Storm Event, what should I do?**

- \*Delay non-essential travel until after the roads have been cleared.
- \*Do not allow children and pets to play on roadways or on the snow berms as this is very dangerous. Drivers may not see them or be able to stop in time to avoid hitting them.
- \*The plow truck operator has no choice in where to put the snow. It has to go off to the side of the road, which may include your driveway entrance.
- \*As snow is plowed from roadways, windrows (a line or row of snow) can be created at the end of driveways and are the property owner's responsibility to clear. Do not shovel or put snow from driveways onto or across county roads as this is unlawful and creates a hazard for other drivers.
- \*If you are removing snow from your property and a snow plow approaches, there is a strong possibility that you are not visible to the operator. Dark clothing, the hour of day and weather conditions inhibit visibility. Protect yourself from injury by giving the plow operator extra room to perform the task.
- \*To avoid shoveling your driveway entrance twice, wait until the plow truck is finished plowing the street before you shove the end of your driveway. This might take several trips for the plow to clear the roads completely.
- \*When removing snow from your driveway, if you are facing the road, place the snow to the right of the driveway. This will allow for more efficient plowing and will help keep snow from ending up back in your driveway, when the plow comes through a second or third time.

### **What should I be aware of when driving?**

Snow plows make frequent stops and backup maneuvers. Do not drive your car up behind a snow plow as the driver may be unable to see you and inadvertently back into your car. If you are behind a plow that stops, stop your vehicle in such a way that your car looks into the driver's outside rearview mirror, and please give them extra room. Drivers are also urged to give an oncoming snow truck right of way. During the winter months, the berm or shoulder of the road is often too soft to support the weight of a loaded salt truck. These drivers cannot move off of the road to let oncoming traffic pass on narrow roads. If you see a salt truck approaching on a narrow road please be courteous and pull off into the nearest driveway and let the snow truck pass. Please be especially careful and courteous when driving around salt trucks and snow plows.

## ***Remember...***

\*Slow down.

\*Allow plenty of stopping distance; don't follow too closely. This also reduces the chance of loose material hitting your vehicle.

\*Don't pass a snow plow.

\*Don't assume the snow plow operator can see you. Every truck has blind spots which reduce side and rear visibility.

\*Keep your headlights on low beam.

\*Road salt and salt-brine solutions have their limits. Road salt loses its effectiveness below 20 degrees Fahrenheit and neither road salt nor salt-brine have much effect when the temperature drops into the teens and single digits for extended periods. Use extra caution when driving during these periods.

## **Stay safe this winter!!**