



TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

WINTER STORM OPERATIONS PLAN

The Union Public Works Department is responsible for the control of snow and ice on 55 miles of public roadway as well as the public parking areas on the Common and the town office and fire station. The mileage is divided into four routes. Route A consists of the high traffic roads (state routes/Sennebec Rd), route B consists of the north Union area, route C consists of the Clarry Hill area, and route D consists of the east Union area. The only public road that UPW is not responsible for winter maintenance is Heald Hwy (Rt 17).

At the beginning of a storm public works personnel will start treating the roads with a combination of sand and salt, otherwise known as a “hot load”. The sand provides grit for traction and the salt is the chemical agent that helps prevent the bonding of ice to the pavement. Treating the roads early is the best way to prevent the buildup of ice or hard packed snow. Preventing the bond at the beginning of a storm helps to clear up the roads quicker at the end of the storm. During a storm personnel will make continuous loops around their route plowing and/or sanding as often as needed. During times of heavy snowfall, plow drivers may elect to skip the secondary roads in an attempt to keep the primary roads as clear and safe as possible. In the event of a breakdown or staffing shortage, the supervisor will adjust the routes accordingly to ensure that the primary roads are attended to first. Secondary roads (ie: dead ends, gravel roads, etc) will be plowed, but it could be several hours between passes. A typical route during an average storm takes between two and three hours to complete. Plowing will continue until the storm comes to an end at which time the intersections will be cleaned up and the snowbanks will be pushed back. Snow in the public parking areas on the Common will be pushed up into piles. Those piles will be removed at the earliest opportunity.

Occasionally during a storm mailboxes may be unintentionally struck by the wing of a plow truck. The town of Union is not responsible for the replacement of damaged mailboxes or posts as they are all placed in the right-of-way. However, if deemed appropriate by the supervisor and if time allows, the public works department may assist in temporary repairs on a case by case basis. UPW will also assist homeowners in the proper placement of mailboxes to help prevent future damage.