



Snow and Ice Control

Fact Sheet

January 2021

General Information:

Our goal is to have all County Roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped. Our plowing priorities reflect a commitment to insuring the roads are kept open to serve critical facilities and to provide access between state highways and our communities.

Snow removal performance can vary depending on a number of variable conditions including, but not limited to: the moisture content of the snow, the weather conditions and the timing of the snowfall. A snowfall that occurs before and during a rush hour will cause more problems than snow falling from midnight to 3 a.m. Heavy, wet snow followed by a cold snap will require more time to clear than dry snow. The County cannot and does not assure a completely bare road.

Chisago County uses three materials to improve roadway safety and inhibit ice formation:

- White Salt – Melts snow and ice on roads when road surface temperatures are above approximately 15 degrees.
- Treated Salt – Melts snow and ice on roads when road surface temperatures are below approximately 15 degrees.
- Salt & Sand Mix – Increases traction for motorists on slippery roads (Icy conditions), mostly used at intersections and ramps. It may also be used in extreme cold temperatures when salt is less effective.

Users of the highway system are reminded to exercise caution and to drive with care. It may not be possible to drive the posted speed limit at all time.

Snow Plow Safety

- Give snowplow drivers room to work and to avoid vehicle damage from flying material
- Do not travel next to a snowplow because they may suddenly move sideways
- Be aware of parking restrictions
- **STAY BACK; STAY ALIVE**

Snow Dumping/Snow Plowing

Chisago County residents are reminded that it is unlawful to dump or plow snow from private driveways onto or across the road (Minnesota Statute Chapter 160.2715, Subdivision (a) (1)). Under civil law, the person dumping snow on the road is liable for any accident that may be caused by it.

Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Piles of snow increase the chance of drifting snow into the roadway. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.

