

CHAPTER 21 - SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL ORDINANCE
OF DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA

Adopted December 10, 1984

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**PART 1
INTRODUCTION**

- 21-1 TITLE. An ordinance establishing the policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of this county's secondary roads during the winter months.

- 21-2 PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish policy and level of service for Dubuque County in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, as provided in H. F. 2487, Section 10(2), Acts of the 63rd G.A., Second Session, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 309.67, Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, and as contained in the Dubuque County secondary road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

- 21-3 through 21-10 Reserved.

**PART 2
GENERAL PURPOSES**

- 21-11 LEVEL OF SERVICE. Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of this County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves, or intersections. The existing snow removal equipment of the county will be utilized for this purpose. All clearance of snow and ice, sanding, salting, and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service. The entire width of that portion of the road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compact snow and ice or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch or right-of-way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the portion to the extent that the sight distance of a motorist to both the left and the right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled on its corners and in piles of unequal heights. The line of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or

shoulder by others. Motorists shall drive their vehicles during these conditions with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, and reduced or impaired visibility, and are advised to reduce their speed to at least 25 m.p.h. below that legally permitted or advised under normal conditions, or to such lesser speed as assures control by the motorist under existing conditions. In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by the motorist and they are advised to reduce their speed to at least 10 m.p.h. or to such lesser speed as assures control by the motorist under existing conditions. During these conditions, no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed that warn of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

- 21-12 SEQUENCE OF SERVICE. In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the Dubuque County secondary road system during the winter months, the County Engineer shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this section of this ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt roads.
- 21-12.1 Paved routes.
- a The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible.
 - b After one-lane traffic is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
 - c The truck mounted snow plows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 3:30 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and/or blowing snow reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgement of the engineer or his delegated representative.
 - d When required, in the professional judgment of the engineer or his delegated representative due to drifting snow or other causation, motor graders may be used to keep paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.
 - e It is not the policy of the county to provide a "dry" pavement condition.
 - f After the roads have been plowed as provided in this sections, intersections, hills, and curves may have placed on them, salt, sand, or other abrasive. These intersections, hills and curves may not be resanded, resalted, or have other abrasives replaced on them between the snowstorms.. This sequence of service shall be performed only between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. each day, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays observed by Dubuque County employees.

- 21-12.2 Unpaved roads.
- a The initial effort will be to open all routes on which people reside to one-lane traffic as soon as possible after a storm has passed.
 - b After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
 - c Motor graders and/or truck plows will not normally be in operation between the hours of 3:30 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. Gravel roads may not be plowed if the wind is causing continual drifting.
 - d Snow may not be removed from roads designated by "road closed" signs or "local traffic only" signs or other roads not normally used during the winter season.
- 21-12.3 There is no limit after a snow storm in which any of the above sequence of clearance, on paved or unpaved roads, shall take place.
- 21-13 LIMITATIONS OF SERVICE. The policy and level of service provided for in this Ordinance shall not include the performance of the following services.
- 21-13.1 Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon the roadway that are slick, slippery and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- 21-13.2 Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon roadways due to freezing precipitation that occurs outside the usual working hours.
- 21-13.3 Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility in intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.
- 21-14 EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.
- 21-14.1 The sequence of service may be suspended during "emergency" conditions. An emergency condition shall be considered as one where a loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred, or where extensive loss of property is imminent. These conditions should be verified through the Sheriff's office. The County will respond to all emergency conditions, either during or after a snow storm.
- 21-14.2 The provisions of the ordinance shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State disaster plan. If such occurs, the County personnel and equipment, through the County Engineer or his delegated representative, shall be immediately subject to direction of the Governor or the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors.
- 21-15 REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.
- 21-16 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

21-17 through 21-20 Reserved.

**PART 3
ENACTMENT**

21-21 EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.