

**Town of Farmington Highway Department**

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**Public Service Numbers**  
Town Hall (315) 986-8100

# Winter Safety Gram

## Town of Farmington Winter Maintenance Policy

Winter 2024 - 2025

### ***EMERGENCIES – DIAL 911***

***Our Mission Statement: The Town of Farmington Highway Department is dedicated to providing safe, courteous, dependable and economical service, wherever and whenever possible for all of our residents.***

**Acknowledgement**

The Highway Department's efforts and success would not be possible without the support of the Farmington Town Board. Again, this year the Supervisor and Councilmen have provided the funds necessary to purchase and maintain the equipment and materials necessary to get the job done. They should be congratulated for their foresight and their interest in public safety.

You, the Town of Farmington taxpayer and resident, are a very important part to a successful snow and ice control campaign. Your understanding and cooperation are an integral part of our plan. To help inform you regarding our methods and give you a few helpful hints, we have compiled the following text.

Again, I would like to stress this is a **team** effort and I would like to give thanks to all of our Highway & Park Department employees, the Town Board, Ontario County Sheriff's Department, the Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Corps, The Canandaigua and Victor School Districts, our neighboring highway departments and all of the residents of the community for working together to provide a safe and healthy environment in the Town of Farmington.

Tim Ford – Town of Farmington Highway Superintendent

**Dear Town of Farmington Resident:**

It is the Town of Farmington's policy to provide winter road maintenance service through its Highway Department. The goal of this policy is to provide for safe and efficient transportation with the constraints of the town's budgetary resources to the traveling public on all roads maintained by the Town of Farmington.

***Before the Snow Falls***

Beginning as early as September, the Town of Farmington Highway Department begins preparing for the winter months ahead by reviewing snow removal routes, servicing maintenance equipment. Preparation and servicing of equipment for the upcoming winter continues through November. November is an extremely critical time, as the equipment used for snow removal operations is used for other things and our focus can change at a very short notice.

The Highway Department's salt storage facility is stockpiled with tons of de-icing salt and 5,000 gallons of de-icing liquid (Magic Minus Zero) for inclement weather during the snow season, the Highway Department continually monitors daily weather conditions via satellite and receives daily weather reports from local weather sources and the National Weather Service.

***When the Snow Starts***

The Town of Farmington is split into 9 distinct plowing routes. These plowing routes are designed to avoid overlap of service and to accomplish a complete maintenance cycle in 3.5 – 4 hours

Call out after a storm event can begin @ 3:00 am and, a start time of 4:00 am should allow all route to be treated and plowed by 7:00 am. For storm events that happen after or during the morning commute maintenance runs will continue throughout the day to allow for school bus routes to be treated before the normal dismissal time.

Should precipitation continue; runs will continue until the evening commute ends under most circumstances all maintenance will end by 9:30-10:00 PM. Severe weather conditions (i.e., freezing rain/roadway icing, blowing snow, may dictate that maintenance might continue after the 10:00 PM end or before the 4:00 AM start time frame to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

It should be understood that unusual situations (i.e., extreme weather events and mechanical malfunctions) might change these time schedules. Every effort to accomplish these maintenance schedules shall be attempted.

An important step in dealing with snowfall is road and street salting. Top priority is given to those roads or routes that the Town has found to be the heaviest traveled.

The snow removal process starts when frozen precipitation begins falling. Operations initiate with the application of salt or a liquid/salt blend to the roads and continue until the roads or streets are clear, or material application is no longer effective due to the depth of the snow.

### **When the Snowfall Continues**

When two or three inches of snow have accumulated and more is expected, snow is more economically removed by plowing rather than salting. Our first responsibility is to open the main roads. These roads are the key to providing safe access for emergency vehicles as well as maintaining a steady flow of traffic since most residents live within a short distance of these roads. The plows then continue to plow all roads on the route to “open up” each one in sequence. If the Storm continues in intensity, the trucks remain in that same pattern until the storm abates. After the storm, the trucks begin to “widen out” all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back to behind the shoulders edge and clearing intersections.

Remember, trained crews work during these storms to keep the roads open and passable. If you wish to report a hazardous condition, call the Highway Department at 315-986-5540. If there is a medical emergency, call 911. The Ontario County Sheriff’s Department non-emergency number is 585-394-4560 or 1-800-394-4560.

Should precipitation continue; runs will continue until evening

### **After the Storm is Over**

Crews continue to monitor all roads for icy spots and areas where winds redeposit the snow in traffic lanes. Usually, an application of salt is applied to all roads and streets so the riding surface remains drivable. If the accumulation is particularly heavy, the Town may use larger equipment (i.e., wheel loaders) to clear upstream culvert mouths and catch basins so that melting snow can run off.

You may wish to avoid a potential problem, and also be of assistance to your neighbors by cleaning off a catch basin, culvert entrance or shoveling out a nearby fire hydrant. It is illegal to create a hazard by discarding snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the roadway.

### **Parking and Travel Regulations**

There is no “on road parking” in the Town of Farmington from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year, this includes areas adjacent to the road surface (i.e., road shoulders and driveway entrances within the right-of-way. Vehicles parked illegally or abandoned on roads are subject to towing at the owner’s expense as well as being ticketed by the Ontario County Sheriff’s Department. As soon as you are aware that bad weather is on the way, make sure your vehicle is off the street. This protects your car from being splashed with slush, becoming plowed in, or being hit by the snowplow or by-passing vehicles. Best of all, the snowplow has space to move the snow to side.

### **Mailboxes and Newspaper Boxes**

Mail and newspaper boxes placed in the highway right-of-way are allowed there merely as a convenience to the homeowner and their delivery person. While the highway department makes every effort to avoid damaging these structures, it may at times, depending on visibility be unavoidable. The Town of Farmington takes **no responsibility for damaged mailboxes or newspaper boxes**. Most mailbox damage is a direct result of snow being cast off of the wing, not direct wing/plow contact. In certain situations, at the Highway Superintendent’s discretion, a mailbox that has been physically stuck by Town of Farmington vehicle may be repaired or replaced by the department.

## **HELPING US HELP YOU**

### **Be prepared, Be Aware and Be Patient**

Before it snows, remember last year's problems and try to tackle them in advance. If you do your own snow removal, have your tools and supplies handy. Shovels, snow blowers, calcium chloride, rock salt and sand should be ready before the season begins. If you hire someone to do your snow removal, make those arrangements early. It can be difficult to find someone in the middle of a storm.

Make arrangements to have adequate food supplies on hand. Keep flashlights, a battery powered radio and emergency equipment on hand in case of disruption in the power supply.

Area news media will announce approaching storms and will disseminate information on school closings and meeting cancellations.

### ***Please do not go out during or immediately after a snowstorm unless it is truly necessary.***

Please use caution around snow removal equipment at intersections; it often becomes necessary to back across the intersections to plow the return lane on all roads. It takes crews hours of hard work to complete snow clearing operations. Less traffic on the road means that we will be able to clear the roads more quickly and completely. Under the best of conditions, it will take us 3.5 to 4 hours from the time it stops snowing to complete our snow removal operations.

### **Be prepared, Be Aware and Be Patient**

Remember whether it is your driveway for which you are responsible for or the many miles of roads for which we are responsible, snow removal is an arduous and time-consuming task. Please understand that the Highway Department cannot shovel snow accumulations from your driveway entrance, nor can we plow private property.

### **Tips & Suggestions**

When shoveling out the mouth of your driveway, throw it to the right of your driveway as you face the street or "downstream". Throwing or plowing snow into the road is not only *illegal* it can create a patch of snow and ice that freezes over and causes a hazardous condition. Besides, it will only be redeposited when the plow comes around again.

Planning alternate ways with extra time

Please plan ahead when traveling to main routes and your place of employment – extra time is needed!

**Remember *slow down***, break slowly and allow plenty of room between you and the vehicle ahead of you.

