



TOWNSHIP OF ESSA - Public Works Department
WINTER OPERATIONS - QUALITY STANDARDS
SNOW PLOWING OPERATIONS

OBJECTIVES/GUIDELINES:

The foremost objectives/guidelines are:

- To meet the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways under Ontario Regulation 239/02, as made under the Municipal Act.

The objectives/guidelines for winter snow plowing operations are:

- To reduce the hazards of icy road conditions to motorists.
- To reduce economic losses to the community caused by winter weather conditions.
- To facilitate the handling of emergencies by Fire and Police officials.
- To maintain safe passable routes within the financial limits of the municipality's budget.

SUMMARY OF QUALITY STANDARDS/LEVEL OF SERVICE:

The level of service for winter snow plowing operations shall be in accordance with the following:

Category I

This objective will generally apply to roads with an annual average daily traffic volume in excess of 1,000 v.p.d. The objective of plowing should be to complete one coverage of the road in both directions in an average time of approximately 6 hours from the start of operations.

Category II

This objective will generally apply to roads with an annual average daily traffic volume less than 1,000 v.p.d. The objective of plowing should be to complete one pass in one direction within 4 hours of the start of operations and to complete the second pass in the opposite direction within 8 hours of the start of operations. Successive treatments (if required during longer storms) would not be carried out unless *Category I* roads have been provided the stated level of service.

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GENERAL

When storms occur during the night, the objective will be to open all roads by 9:00 a.m. Naturally, this may not be achieved during heavy snowfall events or when windy conditions cause drifting.

The Township of Essa does not operate a night time plowing shift of personnel. Except for patrol trucks, plows will generally not operate between 8:00 p.m. and the route call-out time for the next day (normally **3:00 a.m., Monday to Friday, and 5:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday**).

All roads will be maintained in a snow packed condition during a storm by the use of assigned staff and equipment. Snow plowing shall not be carried out on overtime unless there is in excess of 7.5 centimetres (3 inches) of snow on the road surface.

Predetermined routes for plowing and sanding shall be followed except in extreme emergency or critical situations. It is understood that the quality of winter maintenance on any road is dependent on the following factors:

- air and ground temperature
- sunlight
- road surface
- traffic volumes
- wind speed and direction
- snow fall
- freezing rain and sleet

Due to these factors, there may be substantial variations in the level of service provided and the Manager of Public Works/Road Supervisor shall have the authority to alter the plowing and sanding routes depending on the circumstances.

During severe weather conditions (ie. poor visibility) and when the Police are advising people to stay off the roads, the Roads Department may choose to withdraw snow plowing equipment off the roads. The Mayor and/or Chairperson of the Public Works Committee shall be notified prior to this decision being made.

SUMMARY

The Roads Department will attempt to provide the best winter maintenance efforts given the resources available and weather conditions. However, during certain hours and under certain weather conditions, roads may become snow covered and slippery. It is expected that motorists will use extra care in these situations and drive according to the road and weather conditions.

Revised: November 2008