

# BONNER COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

## WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Bonner County Road and Bridge Department maintains 700+ miles of roads within the County. The Road and Bridge Department operates maintenance facilities from three locations.

### PLOWING

Snow Plow Routes – The first priority of the Bonner County Road Department is the removal of snow, and the second priority is sanding. A system of sub-priorities has been set up as guidelines to aid foremen in making the decision, as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Priority                      School bus routes, arterials and major collectors.

2<sup>nd</sup> Priority                      All other county maintained roads.

Snow removal operations will generally begin after a sufficient accumulation of snow. Snow is to be plowed from roadways to provide two-way traffic as soon as practicable. Additional clearing of roadway shoulders and intersections may be performed after the initial snow removal operations have been completed.

3<sup>rd</sup> Priority                      Sanding will not be performed until the roadway has been plowed. Use of sand will be limited to steep roadway grades such as in mountainous terrain, at intersections, and on overhead structures, and in other areas determined by the department to be hazardous. It is not standard policy to sand straight stretches of roadway because of snow floor. Field personnel are directed not to use road salt in the course of regular winter maintenance for budgetary and environmental reasons.

Residents who remove snow from their driveways are reminded that **State law prohibits placing snow or ice on any public road in a manner that impedes vehicle or pedestrian traffic or makes it unsafe.**

## YOU CAN HELP

Winter road maintenance is expensive, dangerous and time consuming. There are several ways the public can help make the County's job more cost effective and safe:

- If there is a snow fall and residents have a vehicle parked on the roadway, please move it immediately. If residents do not move it, the vehicle will most likely be bermed in or tagged for removal. It will be the residents' responsibility to shovel it out.
- Any snow plowing obstructions such as rocks, fences or planters within the roadway right-of-way should be removed for the winter. Not only can they be destroyed by snow removal operations, they can do substantial damage to snow plows. Owners of such obstructions are at risk should the County's equipment be unnecessarily damaged.
- Snow from residents' property should not be stacked over ends of culverts or drainage structures. Rapid warming cycles in winter could result in overloaded ditches being unable to drain and local flooding could occur.
- Mailboxes are occasionally damaged during snow removal operations. Damage due to rotting posts or snow being thrown from a plow will be the responsibility of the property owner/resident.
- Snow removal operations require the use of large, heavy, noisy equipment to be used during periods of darkness usually accompanied by limited visibility caused by falling snow. Bonner County operators are carefully trained and safety is stressed at all times. Drivers of automobiles should follow and pass at a safe distance.
- Children love to watch snow removal operations - the large equipment, noise, lights and activity can be very exciting. Although operators are glad to have people watch, everyone should be cautioned to stay a safe distance away. The concentration required for efficient snow removal, combined with the noise and types of equipment used, means the operators may not always be able to see small children close by and accidents could result.
- Please encourage children NOT to build tunnels, forts or play in snow berms.

For further information, please call the Bonner County Road and Bridge Department main office Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 255.5681.