

2017 Updates:

Snow Removal Guidelines

1. McKenzie County strives to offer snow removal on its road system in a timely manner with utmost consideration for the motoring public and safety of the county employees.
2. It is safe to assume that roads will become snow covered and possibly blocked following significant snowfalls and/or drifting conditions during winter months. The public should be prepared for this as well as icy conditions.
3. The county is not responsible for plowing private driveways and/or cleaning out yards. Examples (garages, dumpsters, gas tanks, etc.)
4. The county may not plow bus routes where little to no attempt has been made to prepare for winter conditions. Examples (dead vehicles, trailers, machinery, etc.) that inhibit removal of snow or result in snow drifts. The County's portion of school routes does not extend beyond county routes. Homeowners associations and homeowners are responsible for clearing the rest of the bus route.
5. When the County helps homeowners, as a courtesy, during significant and unusual snowfall amounts, adequate room must be made available in yards for county snow removal equipment to turn around and exit. All gates and cattle guards on driveways and roads must be wide enough for snow removal equipment to pass through effectively. The county is not responsible for private property that may be damaged due to inadequate or no marking indicators clearly identifying its location to snow removal personal. Examples (well heads, sewer risers, water hydrants, etc.).
6. Any closed gates will be considered the end of the road for any snow removal purposes.
7. Due to safety concerns, the county avoids plowing after dark and during white-out conditions. The County Road Superintendent reviews weather conditions and other hazards and decides when it is safe for snow operators to plow.
8. The county tries alternate plowing routes to treat the public as fairly as possible. Example (Roads close to county's shops may be left till later so roads further out can get attention). However, the County Road Superintendent can choose the most efficient routes for snow removal operations.
9. Vacant farms or farm sites without occupants will not be considered as critical and may be left until time permits.
10. Summer roads or section trails that have not been improved by the county and have become access roads for the public may not be plowed.
11. The county is not responsible for plowing private subdivisions.

12. The county does its best effort to avoid piling snow by mailboxes, but it is the responsibility of the resident to clear for mail carrier.
13. Snow removed from private driveways, roads, and lanes shall not be piled inside the county right of way or easements, since this can create drifts and be hazardous for snow removal equipment when they unexpectedly encounter it.
14. The County will not offer services to private parties e.g. requests to repair driveways, remove haystacks, grain bins, etc.
15. All fences and structures knocked down by county plow equipment will be repaired by the county after the completion of the snow season, except for fencing and structures inside county right of way, inside county ditches or prescriptive right of way, and permanent easements.
16. The County does not remove snow from any private driveways, including, but not limited to; hospital personnel, EMTs, county personnel, city personnel, or any other private entities and individuals who are part of an emergency response team.