

5. Do not drive in winter snowstorms unless absolutely necessary.
6. **Do not throw, plow or blow snow onto the road.** This creates a hazard to you and to others and requires the LHD staff to return to clean up at your expense and it's the Law.
7. Plows are designed to throw snow up to 30 feet. Sidewalk traffic is not advised during a storm event.
8. Before your final driveway cleanup, check the street. If your street is not clean "curb-to-curb", a plow truck should return to plow again. Please understand that the Town cannot shovel your driveway nor can Town plows plow private property.
9. **Finally, please be patient.** Snow plowing is an arduous and time-consuming job covering 100 miles of town roads. Some residents will have their roads plowed "first" and some must be "last". The workers continue until the job is done. The LHD strives to provide the safest streets and roadways in the shortest period of time for the citizens.

10. With your cooperation and common sense, we will all benefit.

**Thank you for your cooperation,**

Thomas P. Wood  
Superintendent of Streets

**Important Telephone Numbers**

LHD – General Information: 508-892-7021

Snow Plowing and Sanding: 508-892-7021

Pot Hole Repairs: 508-892-7021

Police – General Information: 508-892-7010

Fire – General Information: 508-892-7022

**Police/Fire/EMS Emergency: 911**

**Town of Leicester**

**Highway Department**



**“Snow & Ice Program”**

The Town of Leicester Highway Department is pleased to make this “Snow & Ice Program” brochure available to you, the taxpayers of Leicester. The main objective of this brochure is to enhance snowplowing operations. Our mission is to efficiently return our 100 miles of roads to “normal conditions” after each winter storm event. Your support and patience is necessary and greatly appreciated.

The LHD “Snow & Ice Program” involves a four (4) part process:

- 1. When the snowfall Starts...**
- 2. The Snowfall Continues...**
- 3. After the Storm...**
- 4. The Community Can Help...**

## **When the Snowfall Starts...**

Snowplowing operations begin when snow accumulates two (2) inches, or when forecasts indicate that it will. Over 16 Town and private contractor plows can be deployed and assigned to pre-determined routes. When the snowfall starts, the LHD immediately begins to salt the roads to prevent the snow from being compacted and frozen on the road surface. Top priority is given to the Town's main streets and bus routes.

## **The Snowfall Continues...**

The drivers plow their assigned routes to "open-up" each in a pre-determined sequence. If the intensity of the storm warrants, the plows remain in the same pattern until the storm subsides. At the end of the storm, the trucks begin to "widen-out" all the roads by pushing the accumulated snow back beyond the curb line, then clearing the intersections. It is important to note that residents may want to wait until the road has been plowed, and "widened-out" before shoveling the entrance to driveways.

Highway Department's policy is to plow the full width of the streets, "curb-to-curb", during each storm. Again, our initial

responsibility is to keep the main lines and bus routes open and safe for travel. These roads are the key to maintaining a steady flow of traffic.

The LHD staff and hired help are "well-trained" and "dedicated" to work "around-the-clock", keeping the roads open and passable. Please, do not be misled by plow trucks riding with their plows up...they may be going in for fuel, repairs, headed to another assigned route or are not employed by the Town.

An area of concern is mailboxes. To reduce the possibility of damaging a mailbox, our plow truck operators are trained to avoid them. However, experience has shown that with reduced visibility during a snowstorm, combined with the height of the snow banks, it is not always possible for a driver to see a mailbox in time to avoid a collision with the "wing" or the heavy snow that is thrown by the moving plow. Any installation within the road right-of-way (including a mailbox) is placed there at the owner's risk. Therefore, property owner's are encouraged to put mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the roadway pavement. It is strongly recommended that mailboxes and posts

be inspected to insure they are properly secured and the posts are not rotten. To avoid lawn damage, property owners are encouraged to place reflective stakes along their property for our drivers.

## **After the Storm...**

After the snowstorm has ended, our crews must continue to monitor all roads for icy spots, drifting snow, etc. At this time, an application of salt is usually applied to all road surfaces. Some roads will receive an application of sand and salt.

## **The Community Can Help...**

The community can enhance the snow plowing operation by following these suggestions:

1. Make certain that your vehicle is ready for winter driving.
2. Observe and adhere to winter parking bans.
3. Park vehicles off the road or in your yard during a snowstorm.
4. Reduce speed and drive cautiously.