

## **Road Maintenance During Winter Storms**

The Clay County Highway Department works hard to remove snow and ice from roadways to reduce hazardous driving conditions during winter events. The time needed to clear hazards from roads depends on several factors: duration and intensity of storm, time of day, temperature, and traffic conditions.

During a winter storm, residents are encouraged to stay off the roads completely if possible. If you must drive, please be patient. Do not try to pass snow removal equipment and stay 300 feet behind snow plows. If you must pass a snow plow, use extreme caution. Trucks and plows can take up more than one lane and the plowed snow may create a cloud that prevents drivers from seeing. Snow plow operators are not allowed to tow or give rides to citizens.

### **Parked Vehicles**

If vehicles in the road are blocking County snow plows, the road will be skipped until they are clear of vehicles. Vehicles should always be parked off the roads when it is snowy or icy to ensure the quickest removal of snow.

### **Driveway Clearing**

Residents are reminded that snow should not be pushed or piled onto County roads. This creates a danger to travelers and is discourteous to neighbors. The County does not have the resources to clear driveway approaches or mailboxes. Homeowners are responsible to clear the end of driveways and the area in front of mailboxes.

### **Mailboxes**

Occasionally, snow plowing can result in damage to mailboxes. A few things can be done to minimize the chance that your mailbox is damaged in the winter. First, make sure the mailbox and post are installed according to federal and state guidelines (see link below). Second, ensure that your mailbox and post are securely in place and are free of rot, rust, or corrosion. Third, keep in mind plastic mailboxes often turn brittle in the cold and break easily.

Mailboxes that are properly maintained and correctly located per established US Postal Service guidelines will withstand snow coming off plows. The County is not responsible for damage that occurs due to snow discharge. If a correctly installed and maintained mailbox is directly hit by a Highway Department truck, the damaged box and post should be left in place and reported within two business days. The County will not repair or replace mailboxes that are not installed according to US Postal Service guidelines or mailboxes that were previously damaged or poorly maintained.

If it is determined that the County will replace the mailbox, the County will provide and place a temporary mailbox until the replacement is made (usually within two weeks). The replacement mailbox and/or post will be of a standard type and will meet [US Postal Service guidelines and standards](#). If the property owner elects not to have the mailbox and/or post replaced by the County using the standard materials, the property owner may replace the mailbox themselves.

### **Right of Way Damage**

If damage has occurred to the public right-of-way (i.e. ruts or turf damage) due to snow plowing, contact the Clay County Highway Department immediately to report the problem. Staff will follow-up in the spring to smooth out any ruts and re-seed the area as needed. Residents should note that public right of ways should remain clear of landscaping and structures (fences, retaining walls, sprinkler systems, trees, etc.) Any such items in the public right of way are placed at the property owner's risk and are the responsibility of the property owner.

Our goal is to clear the roads as quickly as possible, and our operators often work long hours under hazardous conditions. Please be patient and courteous to our efforts, so you can get to your destination safely. If we work together in our communities, we can clear roadways as quickly as possible, so you can get to your destinations safely.