

Adopted: 1/14/2019
Supersedes: N/A
Policy Number: 123



TOWN OF WENDELL STREET CLEARANCE PRIORITIZATION POLICY

Purpose:

Policy for the Town of Wendell pertaining to street clearance prioritization of State and Town maintained roadways and sidewalks.

Coverage:

This policy, upon adoption of the Town Board of Commissioners, shall establish the clearance prioritization of roadways within the jurisdiction of the Town of Wendell.

Goal:

The goal of the street clearance prioritization policy is to establish a hierarchy of roadways and streets which will be utilized by the Town of Wendell so as to ensure a passible road network for citizens during and following severe and inclement weather events.

Procedures for Clearing Trees from Roadways:

Public Work staff, equipment and vehicles will deploy when conditions are safe. Staff will cut and push downed trees to the side of the streets to create a passable road network. The major focus will be on opening Wendell Boulevard and Wendell Falls Parkway followed by streets leading to public services – police, fire, EMS and Town of Wendell facilities. Following the initial cut and push response and after roadways are open, Public Works staff will begin the debris collection process.

Procedures for Flooded Roadways:

When directed by public safety personnel, Public Works staff will deploy barricades alerting drivers when a roadway is flooded. Drivers are urged to be safe and do not go around the barricade and to never drive through flood waters.

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Priority for Treating Slippery Roadways and Sidewalks:

The following system will be used for application of brine and salt:

Priority #1: Police, Fire, EMS and Town of Wendell facility sidewalks, ramps and parking areas;

Priority #2: Bridges and intersections on main thoroughfares;

Priority #3: Hills and bridges on primary streets and historically icy areas;

Priority#4: Sidewalks within the Downtown Business District.

Snow Plowing Priorities:

The following system will be used for snow plowing:

Priority #1: Main Thoroughfares: The major streets (NC Secondary Roads) upon which the majority of traffic flows into, out of, and around the Town.

Priority #2: Primary Streets leading to public services/facilities. This includes primary streets to access police, fire, EMS and town facilities and Wake County Public School System [WCPSS] facilities.

Although some of these streets and roadways are maintained by NCDOT, efforts will initially be concentrated on thoroughfares and then primary streets during snow events (e.g. Wendell Boulevard, Wendell Falls Parkway).

Once the majority of the travel lanes on the thoroughfares and primary streets are cleared, Town crews will begin work on the primary streets leading to public services (e.g. Pine Street between Wendell Boulevard and Second Street, Fourth Street between Pine and Main Streets, Third Street from Wendell Falls Parkway to the Community Center, and Haywood Street/Lake Glad Road from Buffalo Creek to Main Street.).

Public Information/Communications Initiatives:

Public Awareness is essential during times of extreme weather. As such the Town will utilize its web site and social media to promote appropriate messages to keep the public informed of ongoing activities as they relate to restoring transportation after a major event:

1. Launch the alert box on the Town's website noting the hurricane, winter weather or other inclement weather advisory or alert, if Town services are limited and to stay tuned to a local news station for details.

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2. Prepare a Facebook post with emergency contact numbers of area service providers:
 - In the event of life threatening emergency, contact 9-1-1
 - In the event of power outage, report outage to Duke Energy Progress: 800-419-6356
 - In the event of burst water pipe, contact City of Raleigh Public Utilities - Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM: 919-996-4540
 - In the event of burst water pipe after hours, weekend or holiday, contact City of Raleigh Public Utilities: 919-829-1930
3. Prepare a follow up Facebook post requesting residents to limit travel unless necessary, to assist NCDOT and Town crews in clearing major thoroughfares. Suggest the neighbors check on each other; after all Wendell is the Small Town with Big Charm.

Utilize all existing information outlets to share relevant public information created by other stakeholders. These would include but not be limited to:

- National Weather Service Facebook site - tips for staying safe outdoors during winter weather.
- Wake County Public School System Facebook - share updates relating to students and school closings.
- Wake County Government Facebook site - share updates relating to Wake County services and facilities.

Sample communication prior to onset of hurricane:

“With Hurricane _____ upon us, we may experience high winds, localized flooding and power outages. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol is urging drivers to stay off the roads. If you are on the road, be safe, do not go around the barricades, and if there is water across the road “Turn Around - Don’t Drown!”

With teamwork, the Town of Wendell prepared for Hurricane _____. Staff, equipment and vehicles will deploy as soon as it is safe to be out to help! Town of Wendell Public Works will cut and push downed trees to the side of the streets to ensure a passable road network. The initial focus will be opening Wendell Boulevard and Wendell Falls Parkway followed by streets leading to public services – police, fire, EMS and Town of Wendell facilities.”

Sample communication prior to onset of the winter weather:

“The Town of Wendell follows a priority system for treating and plowing roads and bridges.

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Some of Wendell's roads are maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The remaining streets fall under the care of the Town's Public Works Department, which operates white trucks. There are 28 miles of Town-maintained streets in Wendell. Additionally, town crews may provide brine, salt and sand on portions of NCDOT-owned streets due to these being considered primary streets for the Town or historically known as icy areas.

After pretreatment with salt and brine, Town crews spread salt and sand on the roads, bridges and sidewalks as snow or icy conditions are detected. Snow plowing begins when measurable snow accumulation occurs.

Residents are encouraged to minimize travel during winter weather.”

Duly adopted this 14th day of January 2019, while in regular session.

ATTEST:

Virginia R. Gray,
Mayor

Sherry L. Scoggins, MMC
Special Assistant to the Manager-Town Clerk