

Department of Public Works

Winter Operations

This plan addresses the winter operations for snow and ice control on town roads and sidewalks.

The Camden Public Works Department has the responsibility of maintaining snow and ice control on approximately 55 miles of roadway and 10.5 miles of sidewalk. The mileage is divided into seven plow routes, with the sidewalks being plowed separately.

WHEN A STORM BEGINS:

When a storm begins Public Works personnel will start as soon as possible to treat major arteries and high traffic roads with salt. If temperatures are at 25 degrees Fahrenheit and dropping, liquid calcium chloride may be added. If snow is accumulating and has reached about an inch, plowing should begin ahead of salting. It is the Town's goal to remove snow and ice from municipal roads as rapidly and efficiently as possible.

When storms occur on weekends or after normal working hours, the Public Works Department relies on the police department to notify the Public Works Foreman of deteriorating road conditions. The foreman is then responsible for mobilizing crew and monitoring road conditions throughout the storm.

DURING A STORM:

A. Roadways

As the storm continues the Public Works crews will continue to plow. Major arteries and high traffic roads are the priority, followed by secondary roads and side streets. Plowing will continue until the storm ends, crews will then go back over all routes to widen the roadways out and clean up and push back snow at the intersections. 2 to 3 hours is needed for a plow truck to complete a route. Equipment break downs, trees falling across roads, flooded streets, high traffic and vehicles getting stuck add to the time it takes a plow truck to get the snow removed from Town roads. Intense storms can produce significant snowfall which keeps crews on major roads which means snow may accumulate more on secondary roads. Secondary roads will get plowed, only not as often. Most trucks are equipped with sanders so they will be able to sand hills and intersections during the storm.

B. Sidewalks

Why does it take so long to plow the sidewalks?

The Public Works Department is responsible for snow removal on approximately 10.5 miles of sidewalk. Equipment used for snow removal on sidewalks is a Bombardier sidewalk plow or a Trackless snow blower, the depth of the snow determines what piece of equipment is used. So, the deeper snow will require the use of the snow blower which takes longer to get the job done. A lighter snow can be done with the Bombardier snow plow which is able to cover more area in a shorter period of time.

Only sidewalks in the downtown business district will be plowed during a storm. Other sidewalks will be plowed as soon as possible.

WHEN THE STORM ENDS:

After the storm, crews will continue plowing until all roads are cleaned up and snow banks are pushed back. All roads will then be sanded and salted. All roads and sidewalks in the downtown business district will be mostly clear of snow and ice by means of salt and calcium chloride flakes. It may be a day or two before the sidewalks outside the business district are plowed, but crews will get to them as soon as possible after the storm. Each storm is different and deviations from any plans often occur.

EQUIPMENT:

When salt is applied early in a storm, the salt prevents snow from bonding to the road. The proper spreading of road salt and abrasives, improved equipment, and the calibration of salt/sand spreaders, make salting and sanding of roads the most effective and safest method for snow and ice control. The Town currently has three plow trucks equipped with side dump sanders, one truck with a forward dumping sander and five trucks with rear mounted stainless steel hopper sanders. For snow removal in the downtown business district the crews use two wheel loaders (one is leased for the winter) fitted with 10 and 12 foot snow pushers, two pickup trucks with plows and a Bombardier sidewalk plow.

ROUTE OPERATIONAL PLAN:

The Town of Camden is broken up into 7 plow routes. This includes all state roads as well as town roads, which totals about 55 miles. When crews are mobilized, each truck follows a designated route. It takes a truck about 2 to 3 hours to complete an entire route, and to keep traffic moving safely through town each operator focuses first on high traffic roads. Plowing on six of the routes is fairly basic, pushing snow to the right, and making right hand turns when going through an intersection so snow is not deposited in the middle of the road. Salt will be spread periodically during the storm on high traffic roads. The downtown business district requires different procedures. The objective here is to remove as much snow as possible during the storm. During a storm this is accomplished with at least 4 pieces of equipment and during larger storms 5.

The procedure is to push snow from the sidewalks with the sidewalk plow into the street. The pickup truck will pull snow from the curb and work it to the center of the road where the wheel loaders will push snow to public landing and then into the harbor.

The Town uses two snow dumping sites licensed by the State Department of Environmental Protection.

When the storm is over crews remove as much snow as possible from the downtown area. At this time crews will salt roads; this will help melt away residual snow eventually resulting in bare roads. The sidewalk plow will also spread salt and magnesium chloride flakes on sidewalks. Sand is normally spread on sidewalks outside the downtown business district.

Mailbox Location and Construction Information:

*My mail box was hit
by your snow plow.*

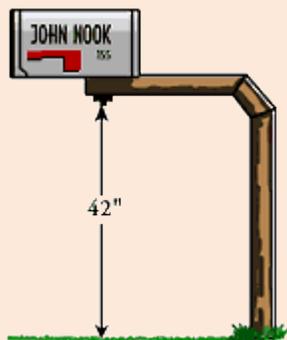
Occasionally, during a snow storm mailbox posts may be broken, even though our plow drivers take all precautions to avoid striking them with the wing plow.

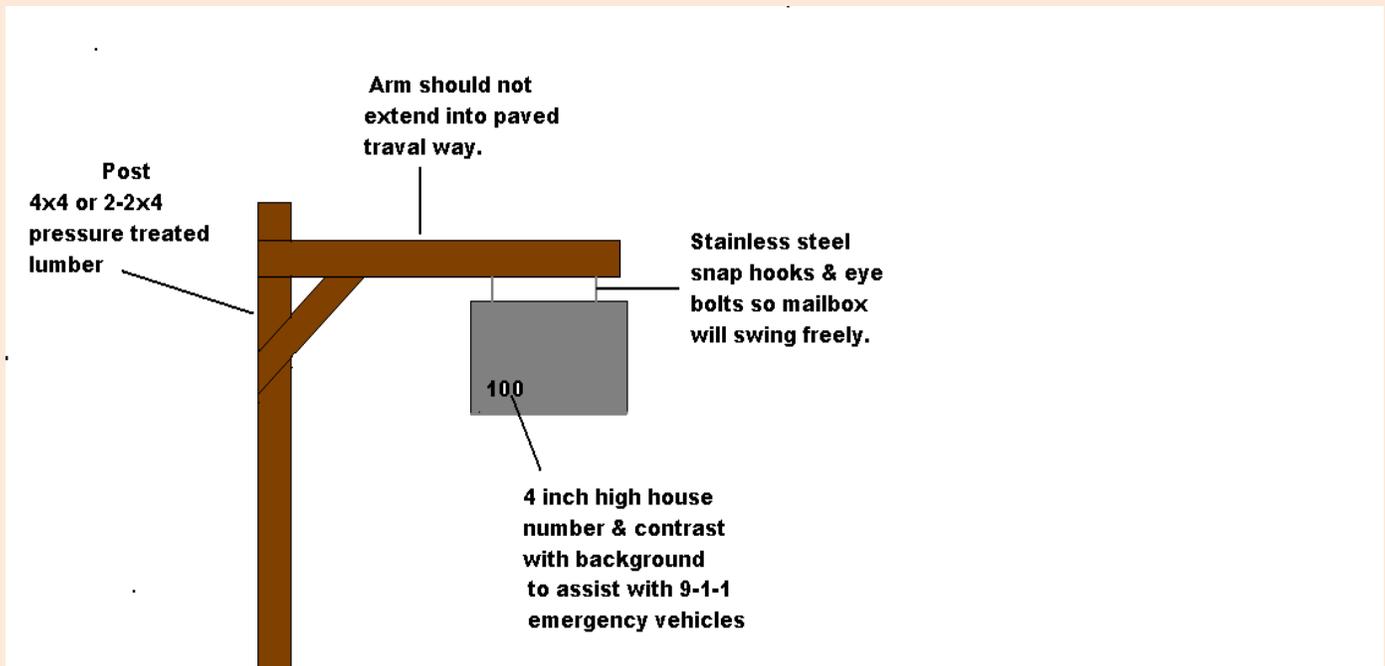
In the event your mailbox is damaged by the Town plow we ask you to make any needed temporary repairs. If you are unable to make such repairs on your own please call Public Works at 236-7954 and we will attempt to make temporary repairs to the mailbox as we deem appropriate and when time permits. For any mailbox damaged by town plowing we will attempt to make repairs to put the mailbox in working condition within 48-72 hours, even if the mailbox post has to be set in a bucket until the ground thaws. Substantially damaged property will be replaced in the Spring with a basic metal mailbox and 4 by 4 inch wooden post. Newspaper boxes will not be repaired or reset by the Town in any event.

The Town will not replace or reimburse for custom made mailboxes, ornate posts or granite posts, etc., or existing mailboxes with rotted posts or in obvious poor existing condition. State of Maine law views mailboxes as an encroachment in the public way put their at the Owner's risk and municipalities are not legally liable for any damage or repairs to mailboxes due to plowing operations.

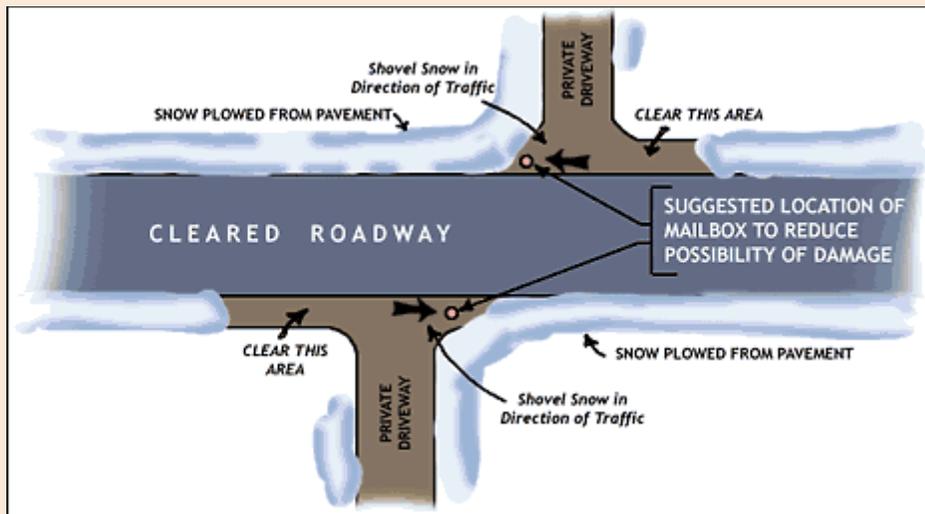
Some tips on placement of mailboxes that will help to minimize the chance of damage:

- Place reflective material on the side of the box visible to approaching traffic, also, 4" high letters to identify the address is recommended to assist emergency vehicles.
- Mailbox post size must not exceed 4" by 4" for a wooden post or 2" diameter for a steel pipe post for roadside barrier safety. Posts that are more substantial in construction are considered "deadly fixed objects" and are not permitted within the Town Way.
- Mailboxes should be installed at least 42 inches high to provide clearance for the plow wing as shown in the picture below. We recommend the use of an extended arm type of post with a free-swinging suspended mailbox as shown on the picture below. This allows snowplows to sweep near or under boxes without damage to supports and provides easy access to the boxes by carrier and customers.





Below you will find a sketch showing the recommended location for your mailbox. Placing the mailbox on the side of your driveway away from approaching traffic will allow our driver to properly clear the roadway and to get as close as possible to your mailbox to minimize the amount of shoveling you will have to do to clear the mailbox for the postal carrier.



For uncurbed roadways set the mailbox back at the far edge of the road shoulder to provide the maximum possible roadway clearance. For curbed roads the face of the mailbox should be a minimum of 12 inches back from the curb face.

Your participation and cooperation in complying with the above will be greatly appreciated by your rural carrier, postal service and Camden Public Works Department.

