



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why, when I have just finished shoveling my driveway, did the snowplow come by and leave a large berm of snow in front of it?

A: The plow operators are unable to turn the blades to avoid leaving a berm all along the plow route, regardless of driveways.

Q: The storm is over and everyone has their driveway cleared. Why, then, does the plow continue to push more snow from the shoulders back into the driveways?

A: Between storms the snowplows have to continue to push the snow back to make room for accumulations from subsequent storms. Otherwise, the travel lanes will become dangerously narrow.

Q: I have a dentist appointment in the morning. Could you please have my road plowed so I can leave home at 9 a.m.?

A: Roads will be plowed in the order that affords the greatest benefit for the most residents. This means major roads and school bus routes will be plowed first. We will plow your residential street if you have a *legitimate emergency* (threat to life, health or property). Otherwise, be flexible in regards to your appointments.

Q: I'm expecting guests. Would it be all right if they parked on the street just this once?

A: Parking is not permitted in the County Road right-of-way during snow removal operations per Calaveras County Ordinance



No. 2154. If you do not have adequate on-site parking that is well out of the way of snow clearing activities, consider carpooling or shuttling your guests in from a public parking lot. Vehicles left on the road will be towed at owner's expense.

Q: I love the way the road looks after a storm, it's a winter wonderland. Could you leave my road off your snow clearing program?

A: We agree that it does look pretty at first. But after a road has been traveled on, the ruts freeze and the road becomes very hazardous to navigate.

Q: The road is icy and is not one of the main roads that you sand. I don't want to put chains on for the short distance I need to travel. How can you help me?

A: You are responsible for maintaining traction on the roads, whether it's by installing chains or other means, as well as by driving slowly. We can sand only a limited number of roads, and even then the drivers are responsible for their own safety.

Take care!

- Carry a survival kit containing blankets or sleeping bag, water, small shovel and a flashlight in case of vehicle breakdown or becoming stuck in the snow.
- Caution children not to play in the streets or on the snow berms. Drivers may not see them or be able to stop in time to avoid hitting them.
- Always carry chains.
- Do not shovel or put snow from driveways in the roadway. This creates a hazard for drivers, a liability for you, and is illegal.
- Snow plows make frequent stops and backup maneuvers. Do not drive your car up behind a snow plow as the driver may be unable to see you.



Enjoy winter in Calaveras County

The scenery is unsurpassed and opportunities for winter sports and recreational activities abound. Calaveras County Department of Public Works wants to ensure that your winter travels are safe and free of delays.

Our mission is to assure safe access through all weather conditions.

We'll keep the lines of communication open. You may call the Snow Line at 209-754-6017 any time for snow removal updates or check the County website.



CALAVERAS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

Email: snowplower@co.calaveras.ca.us

Web: http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us/departments/public_works.asp

Policy

The Calaveras County Department of Public Works has adopted the following policy regarding snow removal and ice sanding on County maintained roadways.

Snow Depth. Snow plowing operations start when there are three inches of snow on the roadway in the Arnold, West Point, Glencoe, Railroad Flat and Mountain Ranch areas and two inches of snow on the roadway in the Camp Connell area. (Recognize that four inches on your deck or in your yard does not necessarily mean that there are four inches on the roadway. The snow may not build up as rapidly on black pavement.)

Timing and Crowding. Once snow removal operations have begun, the County will continue to plow snow and push it back to the shoulders twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week until removal is completed and in preparation for additional storms. We must be certain



that there is adequate space on the road shoulder for the new snow. During snow plow operations, a berm of snow is left in front of all driveways becoming the responsibility of the resident to clear. Unfortunately the necessity to continue to push the snow back to the shoulders of the roads after the storm is over does create additional berms that must be removed by the resident. We will attempt to complete this crowding activity as soon as possible so the creation of additional berms is kept to a minimum.

Priority. During a storm, main roads that provide access to state highways and minor collectors, as well as school bus routes have priority over other roads. Each piece of snow removal equipment has an assigned route. The operators will start at the beginning of their assigned area and plow until they reach the end of that area and then will start back at the beginning. Complete clearing of cul-de-sacs is a last priority.

Sanding. We do not sand snow. The financial impact of maintaining a sanding and ice removal program county wide would deplete our snow removal funds prematurely. We have designated certain roads which will be sanded in order to maintain the main routes for traffic. School bus routes are also a priority.

Ice. Ice scraping operations are done only in the daylight hours when the temperatures are sufficiently high and the snow becomes

The parking or standing of vehicles on the right-of-way of any County road during snow removal operations is prohibited. A member of the California Highway Patrol or Sheriff's office shall remove any such vehicle.

See Calaveras County Code Section 10.28.



slushy. Attempts to shave ice under other circumstances have proven futile and have the effect of polishing the ice making it even more slippery.

Chains. Calaveras County Ordinance No. 2519 requires vehicles to have tire chains or traction control devices in order for vehicles to maintain traction while being operated on County roads. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure the proper installation and maintenance of tire chains or traction control devices when necessary to prevent loss of traction. Loss of traction is defined as the inability of a vehicle to stop, turn, proceed forward or backward in a sustained, controlled manner without skidding, sliding or becoming stuck.

Emergencies. Public Works will respond as quickly as possible to all legitimate emergencies (threat to life, health or property). Call the Sheriff's office at 209-754-6500 and they will contact the appropriate Public Works staff to respond.