



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAND COUNTY SOUTH DAKOTA

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SNOW REMOVAL / SANDING / WEIGHT POLICY

HAND COUNTY UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Fairview, Harrison, Howell, Ree Heights and Spring Townships

It is the policy of Hand County to initiate snow removal operations to maintain traffic as long as the visibility is above minimum and weather conditions are as such that plowing can be done safely and be effective for at least five hours.

As weather conditions permit:

1. Hand County roads will be opened first. After county roads have been opened, then work will start on unorganized township roads.
2. For unorganized townships, the main objective will be to open ONE way out. An effort will be made to open the bus and mail routes as weather, time and money permits. We do not have the time or money, mostly money, to keep ALL roads open.
3. Organized township roads will be plowed only in the case of a life-threatening emergency. County equipment is not for hire. Private contractors are available to do roadwork.

HAND COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL AND SANDING POLICY

It is the policy of Hand County to initiate snow removal operations to maintain traffic as long as visibility is above minimum and weather conditions are as such that plowing can be done safely and be effective for at least five hours.

The county highway superintendent, or his assignee, has the responsibility for initiating all snow removal and sanding actions using his best judgment and considering all prevailing weather conditions, amount of snow fall, type of snow fall and what areas are affected most. He also will commence operations at emergencies or extreme conditions.

The general practice will be as follows: When snow fall is at least two inches but less than four inches all hard surface roads will be plowed during normal working hours, provided that the prevailing winds are such that snow remains on the traveled portion of the road. With a snowfall of four inches or more, all gravel roads as well as hard-surfaced roads will be plowed during normal working hours. **Other than normal working hours, plowing may commence only in a case of emergency or impassable roads.** The snow removal operations will be initiated out of the Hand County highway shop and also from the two satellite sheds located in Ree Heights and Highway 26 East. [In 2020, the Ree Heights shed will no longer be a county asset]

The priority of which roads are plowed and in the sequence is left up to the highway superintendent, taking into account the reported amounts, type and areas of snow fall. The Hand County Highway Department has been directed to sand areas designated by the Hand County highway superintendent, such as bridges, steep hills, curves and intersections on all of the hard-surfaced roads on the Hand County highway system. Also, areas on county roads designated as high traffic volume areas and areas on county roads that numerous school bus stops are required or areas designated by the highway superintendent as so needed by the Hand County highway department.

The highway department shall have the authority to sand in areas that have been classified as danger areas by the sheriff's office, such as accidents or for emergency vehicles. This could also include roads on the township system and the state system. The highway superintendent or his assignee has the authority to sand before and after normal working hours due to adverse weather conditions.

WEIGHT AND SPEED LIMIT POLICY

It is the policy of the commission to instruct the highway department to post weight and speed limit restrictions on all county oiled roads for the frost season with a weight limit of 6 ton per axle, a maximum truck speed limit of 40 miles per hour, and to request the South Dakota Highway Patrol to enforce the said speed and weight limits.