



# Town of Green Mountain Falls

## **Snow Removal Operations Procedures Effective October 24, 2019**

During periods of winter conditions and impending snowfalls, the Town of Green Mountain Falls asks residents to review their understanding of the Town's road plowing policies and to prepare for driving in challenging weather conditions. These policies have been established for several years and overall continue to be successful. **EVERYONE'S SAFETY IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY!**

**Snowplowing:** Plowing operations will generally begin when snowfall has accumulated roughly two inches or more in any given area, but please note that snowfall accumulations can sometimes vary greatly even within the Town boundaries and circumstances may dictate that plowing functions begin sooner—i.e. at any point Town staff determines mobilization is necessary for public safety purposes. The two-inch rule helps to minimize unnecessary wear on the equipment and damage to the road surface grading.

The Public Works crew makes every effort to open roads as quickly as weather permits. They start with the primary roads - Ute Pass and Belvidere Avenues - as priority. The steeper grade roads are then plowed starting with the most populated (Spruce, Hondo, Foster, Mountain, and Catamount). School bus stops and off-street parking areas are opened next to provide areas to park for those vehicles that cannot get to their destinations. Depending upon the storm intensity, it is sometimes necessary to repeat this process before proceeding to other roads. Progressively, all other roads are plowed, and intersections cleared. Normally, the assignment is for one worker to start at one end of the town and plow to the other. To prevent the waste of material, sanding is limited to critical areas only, if snowfall persists. Once the snow has stopped, streets will be sanded starting with the sloped areas.

**Abandoned vehicles:** Vehicles parked or abandoned on the right of way during storms make it extremely difficult and dangerous to facilitate snow removal efforts and to allow residents to get home. Vehicles may be towed at the owner's risk and expense, and tickets may be issued if vehicles left on the right of way hamper plowing or obstruct traffic. Please use the designated public parking areas along Ute Pass Ave., Hotel St., Olathe St., Oak St., or Belvidere Ave. if you cannot get your vehicle to your home. If your vehicle is stuck, please get help immediately and have it moved. In the winter months, everyone must exhibit extreme responsibility and park as far off the right-of-way as possible.

**Driveways and sidewalks:** When roads are being plowed, snow may block driveways. While the Town realizes this presents an inconvenience, it is the property owner's responsibility to clear individual driveways and for businesses owners to keep their sidewalks free of ice and snow after snow has stopped. Please do not shovel snow from driveway entrances back onto the streets.

**Check weather forecasts and prepare your vehicles for the conditions:** Weather can change very quickly in and along the mountains. Keep informed by listening to local stations for storm forecasts. Prepare both yourself and your vehicle during winter.

**Sledding:** Please do not let your children sled on major arteries or rights-of-way, as it is extremely dangerous for everyone involved. Though it may be tempting to sled on steep streets, please find safer areas and alleviate this risk.

**Emergencies:** In case of an emergency, dial 911 to receive assistance either from the Town Marshal's Office or the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.