

# Priority Routes

Chelan County's snow- and ice-control efforts are prioritized to assure vital access is maintained throughout the County. That means school bus routes and major arterials are TOP PRIORITIES during and after a snow event. Local access roads are plowed only after these roads.

The County has many primitive roads. These include dead end roads that don't have a place for plows to turn around or are inaccessible to snowplows. Some primitive roads are not plowed. Others may need to be left unattended until weather and road conditions allow equipment to get to them safely.

Be aware of what type of County road you live on. If you need clarification, call the Public Works office or check our high priority snow plowing routes under "road maintenance" on our website.

[co.chelan.wa.us/public-works](http://co.chelan.wa.us/public-works)

"Snow and ice equipment will not be sent out in situations that are judged to be extraordinarily hazardous to the employee or to equipment."

-- Chelan County Public Works  
Policies & Procedures



Is your County roadway slick or impassable?

- ◆ From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, call the Public Works main office at 509-667-6415.
- ◆ Make an online service request anytime at [www.co.chelan.wa.us/public-works](http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/public-works).
- ◆ Outside of regular office hours, report problems to RiverCom, the County's emergency dispatcher, at 509-663-9911.

Chelan County Public Works  
316 Washington St., Suite 402  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
[public.works@co.chelan.wa.us](mailto:public.works@co.chelan.wa.us)



## Chelan County



## Snow Removal Policies



## 'Snow Wrinkles'

When a County snowplow clears a roadway, private driveways may be blocked by the snow pushed aside by the snowplow. The snow left behind is often called a "wrinkle." It is County policy not to clear or unblock private driveways; citizens should be prepared to clear the wrinkle between their driveways and a County road. Private services for hire also are available in most communities for such purposes.

## Snow Damage

Mailboxes, cars, fruit trees, fences or anything that's parked, planted or left near the County right-of-way can sustain damage during the winter snow plowing season. Chelan County is not responsible for damages that occur when something is hit by snow. Damage caused through direct contact with snow removal equipment may be the responsibility of the County. The County encourages property owners to look into "swinging" or "snowplow resistant" mailboxes, which

are less likely to be damaged when hit with snow from a working plow.

## Stranded Vehicles

The County does not remove vehicles stuck or stranded in the roadway during extreme weather. Not only does stopping to remove stranded vehicles delay snow plowing efforts but County snowplows and equipment also are not equipped to tow other vehicles safely. Drivers should call RiverCom, the County's emergency dispatch center, at 509-663-9911. Or, in an emergency, call 911.

## Don't Shovel Snow into the Roadway

Don't shovel or plow your snow into the county right-of-way. It can be a hazard for motorists and snowplow drivers. It also violates County Code. (*Chelan County Code Section 8.45.070*) Instead, help out snowplow drivers by keeping the road free of obstructions, which also includes cars and garbage cans.

## Sidewalks & Fire Hydrants

If you own commercial property that's adjacent to a sidewalk, it's your responsibility to clear the sidewalk after a snowfall. County Code requires sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours of snow or ice falling or accumulating.

Keeping fire hydrants clear of snow and ice is not the responsibility of County crews. If you have concerns about a fire hydrant, contact your local fire district. Or, better yet, take the time to clear a hydrant in case an emergency should strike.

## Keep Children Safe

Remind children never to build snow forts near the street. Snowplow drivers cannot see children who may be playing in a fort or hiding in a snow bank. And don't let your children near an oncoming snowplow. While it might look like fun to be covered in the cascading snow, rocks and other debris in the snow may injure a by-stander.