

Abandoned cars

Cars abandoned in the right-of-way that interfere with the KCRC's snow plowing equipment will be moved by the Sheriff Department.

To avoid stalled cars during the winter, residents are advised to keep their cars in good working condition and not attempt to drive through drifts. Although the KCRC personnel are not authorized to pull cars from snowdrifts, we will notify the Sheriff Department of your need for assistance.

Plowing service limitations

The KCRC's snow removal policy is designed to provide the best service possible, but residents should have realistic expectations. Unpredictable weather conditions or events and limited financial resources make it impossible to ensure absolutely safe roads.

We encourage you to slow down and drive defensively. Even with the best service, driving conditions may still be hazardous in the winter months.

With your help, the KCRC can ensure that driving conditions are as safe as possible in the winter.

Michigan Snow Statute

MCL 257.677a—Snow, ice, slush on roadway
(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Person" shall not include the state or a political subdivision of the state or an employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state operating within the scope of his duties.

(b) "Safety vision" means an unobstructed line of sight enabling a driver to travel upon, enter, or exit a roadway in a safe manner.

(2) A person shall not remove, or cause to be removed, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner, which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle other than off-road vehicles.

(3) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of a motor vehicle.

(4) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush on any roadway or highway.



Remember-Please don't crowd the plow!

Kalamazoo County Road Commission
Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.to 4:00
p.m.
(269) 381-3171

To report a winter road-condition emergency when the Kalamazoo County Road Commission office is closed, call:
Kalamazoo County Sheriff Department
(269) 383-8821
or
9-1-1

Michigan Department of Transportation
MDOT road jurisdiction is I-94, U.S. 131
M-43, M-96 or M-89
(269) 337-3900

Michigan State Police
Battle Creek (269) 746-4288
Paw Paw (269) 657-5551

Michigan State Police Winter Travel
Advisory
(800) 381-8477

City of Kalamazoo
(269) 337-8731

City of Portage
(269) 329-4444

All programs, activities and services are provided equally without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or handicap.

Snow Removal

Keeping Kalamazoo
County Roads Safe for
Over 100 Years
(269) 381-3171

www.kalamazoocountyroads.com



Safe driving conditions

During the winter months safe driving conditions are a top priority for the Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC). In all, we are responsible for snow and ice control on more than 1,263 miles of county roads. By monitoring weather forecasts frequently we are able to meet winter's challenges and implement an effective snow and ice removal plan.

If you have questions about snow removal in an incorporated area, you should contact that particular city or village. Michigan Department of Transportation handles snow removal activities on roads under its jurisdiction (I, U.S. and M routes).

Criteria for snow removal

Generally, plowing operations begin when slippery conditions exist or snow levels reach about two inches on most major roads. If snow continues to fall or is predicted, the snow removal crews are prepared to respond accordingly. Special attention is paid to road surfaces on bridges because they tend to freeze more rapidly than other surfaces.

When snow has fallen during the night, plowing begins at 4 a.m., so the roads will be as clear as possible by the time you start for school or work. If weather or driving conditions warrant, a special night crew works with the Sheriff Department to handle emergency situations. The KCRC and the Sheriff Department work closely to make sure road conditions are safe for area motorists. The Sheriff Department also handles emergency calls to the KCRC after regular business hours and can alert crews to respond to a particular problem.

The snow route system

The KCRC has designated a special network of roads within the county as a snow route system. Snow route roads receive our first attention. When winter weather affects road conditions, our goal is to provide the maximum level of service to the greatest number of people as quickly as possible. This network of roads includes more than 260 miles.

Snow removal priorities:

1. Snow route roads
2. Balance of primary roads
3. Local roads
4. Subdivision or plat streets
5. Dead-end and cul-de-sac roads

Every-day service is provided to priorities 1, 2 and 3 during snow events. Every-other-day service is our goal for plat streets, dead-end and cul-de-sac roads. **(If a storm is long lasting or a second storm starts before clean up on priorities 4 and 5 have been completed, crews will return to priorities 1, 2 and 3).**

Materials

Salt/sand/liquid deicer mix is applied as moderately as possible, without presenting unacceptable risk to the motoring public.

The salt keeps the sand from freezing, while the sand provides traction for vehicles.

When the temperature goes below 20 degrees the liquid deicer moistens the salt or sand-salt mix, hastening the melting action that had been slowed by the low temperature.

Clearing snow from driveways

State law prohibits the plowing or shoveling of snow, ice or slush onto or across roadways or highways, as it can present a serious traffic hazard. In addition, snow must not be piled in such a way as to obstruct motorists' vision.

It is advisable to pile snow on the right side of your driveway, as you face the road. This minimizes the snow being pushed back into your driveway by our plows.

Residents should also make certain that their trash containers are not placed too close to the edge of road before snow removal has taken place.

Damage to mailboxes, posts and landscape

Mailboxes and posts in good condition generally withstand the force of snow plowed against them.

Governor Jennifer Granholm has officially proclaimed the fourth Saturday in October as 'Shake Your Mailbox Day' in Michigan. Shake Your Mailbox Day is a cooperative effort between the KCRC and the U.S. Postal Service. The KCRC participates in this effort and encourages residents to prepare for winter by shaking their mailbox.

The KCRC regrets any damage to mailboxes and/or supports occurring as a result of road maintenance activities. By law, the KCRC has no legal responsibility for personal property claims while in the course of its governmental function. The KCRC will not assume responsibility for mailbox damage that may be caused by snow/ice that is being plowed from the roadway.

Posts should be placed 12 inches from the outside edge of the road shoulder. Large posts of wood, concrete or steel are not permitted because they could prove hazardous to motorists, thereby possibly creating a liability for homeowners.

Additionally, private installations within the public road right-of-way such as sod, shrubs, sprinkler systems, etc. may be damaged in the process of snow removal or seasonal maintenance work. Damage that may occur is not intentional and in many cases, unavoidable.

Because it is the statutory responsibility of the KCRC to maintain the roadways and right-of-way property, road agencies are not held liable or responsible for any damage caused to private installations located within public roads and/or rights-of-way in place without a permit.

REMINDERS

Please help us educate the children of our county on the risks presented by snowplows and the dangers of playing on the high piles of snow and ice that are near the roadway during snow removal.

Children

- Please KEEP CHILDREN AWAY from roadside piles of snow
- Do not build snow forts, make tunnels, or play in snow banks next to roads
- Keep away from the edge of the roadway as you wait for the school bus, get the mail, or watch the plow trucks
- Stay away from the end of the driveway when a snow plow is approaching
- Hidden objects under the snow, when thrown by the snow plow could cause serious injury
- Keep sleds and toys away from the roadways at all times

Motorists

- Do not park or abandon a vehicle or other object in the right-of-way
- Do not attempt to pass a snow plow while they are plowing
- Never pass a plow on the right as wing plows are often hidden by the snow cloud being kicked up by the plow
- Plow drivers have limited visibility and they cannot see directly behind their trucks
- Motorists are advised not to travel next to a plow
- Plows can suddenly move sideways from hitting drifts or by cutting through packed snow
- Do not crowd the plow!
- Wear your seatbelt and always allow extra time to reach your destination