



Okanogan County
Dept. of Public Works

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Press Release

With the winter driving season upon us, Okanogan County Department of Public Works would like to make the traveling public aware that due to declining revenues, smaller crew sizes and rising costs of operation and maintenance, there may be a noticeable change in winter plowing operations. Our crews take great pride in providing a safe road system for our communities but with our revenue shortfall, we are looking at reducing overtime hours, equipment time and materials used for traction and deicing.

In order to work within budgetary goals, we have prioritized our snow plow routes to be most beneficial and efficient to the citizens. Roads that will not receive winter maintenance will be posted with signs stating "no winter maintenance". Weekend and evening plowing will also be kept to a minimum using the Okanogan County Snow and Ice Policy as a guideline for our crews to follow. School bus routes will continue to be held at a high priority.

With these changes, it is more important than ever for the traveling public to prepare themselves and their vehicles for all the different winter driving conditions and emergency situations that we can experience in Okanogan County. Driving habits should reflect road conditions such as: being patient and allowing more travel time to reach your destination, slower speeds, and leaving extra room between your vehicle and the vehicles in front of you. Be aware of slick conditions when approaching intersections, bridges or shady areas.

If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it leaving distance for the operator to apply sand and do not pass until it is safe or the plow truck pulls off the road. A snowplow driver's field of vision is limited so stay back at least 250 feet. Please do not park on the road or in a snowplow turn around area as this makes it difficult for equipment operations while hampering snow removal and could result in your vehicle being towed away or damaged.

Okanogan County Department of Public Works is experiencing historical revenue shortfalls but still strives to provide a safe road system with the funding we have. We do appreciate your attention, patience, and cooperation during this time to help provide safe travel for everyone.