

# Connecticut Municipal Snow Removal



THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TM

**A CCM Research and  
Information Services  
Municipal Tool Kit**

**October 2014**

# Connecticut Municipal Snow Removal

A CCM Research and Information  
Municipal Tool Kit

## Introduction

The following *Connecticut Municipal Snow Removal* Municipal Tool Kit is provided as an informative publication to all CCM members.



For more information regarding this or any question please contact the CCM Research and Information Services Department at (203) 498-3000 or [research@ccm-ct.org](mailto:research@ccm-ct.org).

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As the winter season comes upon New England, year after year, we are faced with the many difficulties that winter's snow can visit upon a municipality. Like so many cold climate regions, Connecticut has experienced ice storms, blizzards, below freezing temperatures, and more importantly the questions as to how and where to start cleaning up the hazardous precipitation. With each new winter season there are often new regulations and ordinances or new practices that leave many wondering:

- What can and cannot be placed on the ground to assure safe travel?
- Who is responsible for sidewalk clean-up?
- Salt or Sand?
- What is the best method by which a municipality can operate?

This kit provides a comprehensive overview of the effects that snow has on Connecticut's municipalities. As you will note, Section One covers all up-to-date Connecticut General Statutes with regard to the regulation of snow removal. *Connecticut General Statutes* (C.G.S.) §13a-193 mandate that snow accumulation that presents a foreseeable effect on the steady and safe flow of traffic on state highways, will be cleared by the State's Department of Transportation. C.G.S. §7-163a puts responsibility on *both* the municipality's public works department and landowners of property abutting any public sidewalk to clear precipitation. The land abutting property owner has the *primary* responsibility to clear snow on any sidewalk that lies beside their property. If the land abutting property owner fails to take action, the municipality's public works department becomes responsible by default. The state laws enable municipalities to enact local ordinances to collect out-of-pocket expenses that they may have incurred for the additional snow removal.

In Section Two, the reader will find sample ordinances from the following municipalities, which have staggered populations:

- |            |              |            |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| • Ansonia  | • Hartford   | • Norwalk  |
| • Danbury  | • Middletown | • Norwich  |
| • Griswold | • New Haven  | • Westport |
|            | • New London | • Wilton   |

In Section Three the reader will find sample snow removal policies from the following municipalities:

- Branford
- Bristol
- Colchester
- Southbury
- Windsor

Although CCM would like to highlight the unique techniques, schedules, and regulations that each municipality has developed in the fight for snow removal, due to space and page restrictions only a few municipalities' ordinances and policies were chosen as examples. CCM believes that all municipalities will find this publication useful and having some connection to the conditions in their own municipality.

As you will note, the attached municipal ordinances and snow removal policies all emphasize the responsibility that *both* the town and land abutting property owner have in clearing public sidewalks. These ordinances and policies reiterate that the owner of the property beside the sidewalk must remove snow accumulation in a timely manner. Many municipalities have enacted ordinances, as they are allowed to do by state law, giving them the right to collect out-of-pocket costs they incurred for additional plowing due to property owner negligence. Municipalities often collect these expenses by issuing citations and fines. Some municipal ordinances provide for a hearing procedure whereby the land abutting property owner can contest the fines they have received.

The municipal snow removal policies give the specifics as to: how much snow has to accumulate before the municipality can begin to plow, when a parking ban is put into effect, what to do in case private property is damaged by the municipality's equipment, where and when salt/sand are provided to the public, and so forth.

Through the use of articles, statutes, ordinances, expert advice, and studies, CCM hopes that the following information will help municipal officials ensure the safety of those living, working and traveling throughout Connecticut.

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# Section 1

## **Connecticut General Statutes**

GENERAL STATUTES  
OF  
CONNECTICUT  
TITLE 7  
MUNICIPALITIES  
CHAPTER 98  
MUNICIPAL POWERS

**Sec. 7-163a. Municipal liability for ice and snow on public sidewalks.**

(a) Any town, city, borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough may, by ordinance, adopt the provisions of this section.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13a-149 or any other general statute or special act, such town, city, borough, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough shall not be liable to any person injured in person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk unless such municipality is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street, provided such municipality shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such sidewalk.

(c) (1) The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the municipality had prior to the effective date of any ordinance adopted pursuant to the provisions of this section and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of said injury. (2) No action to recover damages for injury to the person or to property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk against a person who owns or is in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall be brought but within two years from the date when the injury is first sustained.

TITLE 13a  
HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES  
CHAPTER 238  
HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

**Sec. 13a-93. Snow removal from state highways.**

The commissioner shall remove the snow from the traveled portions of any completed state highway when the accumulation thereof renders such highway unsafe for public travel.

## Section 2

# **Connecticut Municipal Snow Removal Ordinances**



CITY OF ANSONIA  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL  
CHAPTER 24 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

**Sec. 24-9. Removal of snow, ice, etc., from sidewalks<sup>8</sup> --Duty of abutting property owners, etc., generally.**

8. For charter provisions as to authority of city with regard to removal of snow, ice, etc., from sidewalks, see Char., § 93.

It shall be the duty of every owner, occupant or person having the care and control of any building or lands fronting on any sidewalk in the city to keep the same free and clear from snow, ice and sleet, and wherever any snow, ice or sleet shall fall upon any such sidewalk, it shall be the duty of such owner, occupant or person having the care of such building or land to remove the same within six hours after the cessation of any storm of snow, ice or sleet, if in the daytime, and if in the nighttime, then before 12:00 Noon of the succeeding day.

**Sec. 24-10. Same--Duty of abutting property owners, etc., to place sand, etc., on sidewalks when snow, ice, etc., cannot be removed.**

It shall be the duty of the owner, occupant or person having the care or control of any building or land fronting on any sidewalk in the city to keep the same at all times safe for public travel and free from defects and obstructions, and he shall cause sand or other suitable material to be placed on any such sidewalk upon which snow, ice or sleet may have fallen or formed and which cannot be removed, so that such sidewalk will be safe for public travel.

**Sec. 24-11. Same--Gutters to be kept clear of snow, ice, etc.**

It shall be the duty of the owner, occupant or person having the care of any building or land bordering any street or public place in the city where there is a footway or sidewalk having a paved gutter to keep and maintain such paved gutter free and clear from snow, ice, sleet, mud, garbage or other rubbish of any kind at all times so as to permit the free passage of water through the same.

**Sec. 24-12. Same--Effect of failure to comply with sections 24-9 to 24-11.**

In case of any failure or neglect to comply with the provisions of sections 24-9 to 24-11, the board of public works shall remove such snow or ice, or properly cover such sidewalk with sand or other suitable substance, and the expense thereof shall be collectable from the person so failing or neglecting, in an action of debt brought in the name of the city.

**Sec. 24-13. Same--Depositing removed snow, etc., in adjoining gutters or drains.**

Every person required by law to remove the snow and ice accumulating upon any path or sidewalk shall remove the same without placing or depositing, or allowing the same to be placed or deposited, in any gutter or drain adjoining such path or sidewalk and shall remove the same in such

a manner either into the highway or in some other place that the drain or gutter adjoining such sidewalk or path shall not be obstructed in any manner.

In case any snow or ice is removed from any path or sidewalk into any drain or gutter adjoining the same in such a manner as to obstruct the same, the board of public works of the city may remove the same and thereupon the cost of such removal may be recovered of the person necessitating such removal in an action by the city.

TOWN OF WILTON  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE II REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS  
CHAPTER 11 DRIVEWAYS, ROADWAYS AND SIDEWALKS

**§ 11-2. Liability; duty to remove.**

A. The provisions of Section 7-163a of the Connecticut General Statutes are hereby adopted as set forth in Subsections B, C and D hereof.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 13a-149 of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other general statute or special act, the Town shall not be liable to any person for injury to person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk unless the Town is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street, provided that the Town shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such sidewalk under its possession and control.

C. The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the Town had prior to the effective date of this article and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of said injury.

D. No action to recover damages for injury to person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk against a person who owns or is in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall be brought but within two years from the date when the injury is first sustained.

**§ 11-3. Responsibility of owner or person in possession or control of land abutting public sidewalk; removal by Town.**

Whenever the public sidewalk shall be wholly or partially covered by snow or ice, it shall be the duty of the owner or person in possession and/or control of land abutting a public sidewalk to cause such sidewalk to be made safe and convenient by removing the snow there from within the first six hours of daylight immediately following the accumulation of such snow thereon or, in the case of ice, by covering the same with sand or other suitable material within the first six hours of daylight following the accumulation of such ice, and then removing such treatment as often as may be necessary to keep such sidewalk safe and convenient. In case of the failure or neglect of the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting the public sidewalk to comply with this section, the Department of Public Works may, but is not obliged to, cause the same to be done, and the expense thereof shall be collectible from the person so failing or neglecting, in an action of debt brought in the name of the Town under this section. Any person who fails or neglects to comply with this section shall also be liable for a penalty or fine of \$99, provided that no such expense, penalty or fine may be collected from any person whose violation of this provision is caused by snow deposited on his sidewalks by Town snow removal activities.

#### **§ 11-4. Enforcement**

The provisions of this article are designated for enforcement in accordance with Sections 7-148 and 7-152c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. The Town of Wilton may institute civil proceedings to enforce the provisions herein contained.

#### **§ 11-5. Hearing procedure; appeals.**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-152c of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Town of Wilton hereby adopts the provisions authorized by Section 7 -152c and establishes a hearing procedure as follows:

A. Hearing officers. The First Selectman shall appoint one or more sidewalk clearing hearing officers. No person who serves as a police officer, member of the Police Commission, employee of the Police Department or person who issues citations shall serve as a hearing officer.

B. Notice of citation. The municipality, acting by the First Selectman or the First Selectman's designee, shall at any time within 12 months from the expiration of the final period for uncontested payment of a fine, penalty, cost or fee for any citation issued under this article send notice to the person cited. Such notice shall contain the following information:

(1) The allegations against the person cited, together with the amount of the fines, penalties, costs, or fees due.

(2) The fact that the person may contest his or her liability before a hearing officer by delivery in person or by mail of a written notice within 10 days from the date of the notice.

(3) That if a hearing is not demanded, an assessment and judgment shall be entered against the person cited.

(4) Any such judgment may issue without further notice.

C. If an individual cited wishes to admit liability for any alleged violation, he may, without requesting a hearing, pay the full amount of the fines, penalties, costs and fees admitted to, in person or by mail, to an official designated by the First Selectman. Such payment shall be inadmissible in any proceeding, civil or criminal, to establish the conduct of such person or other person making the payment.

D. Any person who does not deliver or mail written demand for a hearing within 10 days of the date of the first notice shall be deemed to have admitted liability, and the designated municipal official shall certify such person's failure to respond to the hearing officer. The hearing officer shall thereupon enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees provided for by the applicable ordinances.

E. Any person who requests hearing within the time specified in this article shall be given written notice of the date, time and place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be held not less than 15 nor more than 30 days from the date of the mailing of the notice, provided the hearing officer shall

grant, upon good cause shown, any reasonable request by any interested party for postponement or continuance. An original or certified copy of the initial notice of violation shall be filed and retained by the municipality. The notice shall be deemed to be a business record within the scope of Section 52-180 of the Connecticut General Statutes and evidence of the facts contained therein. The presence of the issuing official or police officer shall be required at the hearing if the accused so requests. A person wishing to contest his or her liability shall appear at the hearing and may present evidence on his or her own behalf. A designated municipal official, other than the hearing officer, may present evidence on behalf of the municipality. Any person who fails to appear may be defaulted and an assessment by default entered against him or her upon a finding of proper notice and liability under applicable statutes or ordinances. The hearing officer may accept from such person copies of police reports, investigatory and citation reports, and other official documents by mail and may determine thereby that the appearance of such person is unnecessary. The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing in the order and form and with such methods of proof as he or she deems fair and appropriate. The rules regarding the admissibility of evidence shall not be strictly applied, but all testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. The hearing officer shall announce his or her decision at the end of the hearing. If the hearing officer determines that the person is not liable, he or she shall dismiss the matter and enter the determination in writing. If the citation hearing officer determines that the person is liable for the violation, he or she shall enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees against such person.

F. Notice of assessment. If the assessment is not paid on the date of its entry, the hearing officer shall send by first class mail a notice assessment to the person found liable and shall file, not less than 30 days nor more than 12 months after such mailing, a certified copy of the notice assessment with the Clerk of the Superior Court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator within the boundaries of the Judicial District in which the municipality is located, together with an entry fee of \$8. A certified copy of the notice of assessment shall constitute a record of assessment. Within such twelve-month period assessment against the same person may be accrued and filed as one record of assessment. The Clerk of the Superior Court shall enter judgment in the amount of such record of assessment and court costs of \$8 against such person in favor of the municipality. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Connecticut General Statutes, the hearing officer's assessment, when so entered as a judgment, shall have the affect of a civil money judgment, and a levy of execution on such judgment may be made without further notice to such person.

G. Appeal. There shall exist a right of appeal in favor of any person against whom an assessment has been entered pursuant to the provisions of this article. An appeal shall be instituted within 30 days of the mailing of notice of such assessment by filing a petition to reopen assessment, together with an entry fee in an amount equal to the entry fee for a small claims case pursuant to Section 52-259 of the Connecticut General Statutes in the Superior Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, which shall entitle such person to a hearing in accordance with the rules of the Judges of the Superior Court.

TOWN OF GRISWOLD  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
CHAPTER 195 SNOW EMERGENCIES

**§ 195-4 Parking restricted; removal by owner or occupant.**

A. It shall be unlawful at any time during the period of any snow emergency under the provisions of this regulation for the owner of a vehicle or person in whose name it is registered to allow or permit said vehicle to remain parked on the odd-numbered side of any public road, street or highway of the Borough of Jewett City and the Town of Griswold or in any area where signs prohibit such parking during winter storms.

B. It shall be unlawful at any time during the period of any snow emergency under the provisions of this regulation for the owner of a vehicle or person in whose name it is registered or the lessee of any such vehicle to allow or permit it to remain parked on either side of the following streets: Carley Avenue, Dey Street, Dwyer Street, High Street, Lincoln Square, Pulaski Street, Rhea Street, Ruszenas Street and Tracy Avenue.

**§ 195-5 Violation of regulations.**

The owner, occupant or any person having the care of any building or lot of land and whose duty it is to clear the same, who shall violate any of the provisions of the above or refuse or neglect to comply with the same, shall be guilty of an offense for every four hours such person shall neglect to comply with any such provisions after notice from the First Selectman or any police officer of the Borough of Jewett City or the Town of Griswold.

**§ 195-6 Penalties for offenses; removal by town.**

If any sidewalk in the Borough of Jewett City or the Town of Griswold remains encumbered with snow, ice or sleet for four hours after the owner or person having the charge or care of the lot or building bordering on such sidewalk and legally liable to clear the same has been notified by the First Selectman or a police officer to remove the same, the First Selectman shall cause the same to be cleared or sanded, as the case may be, and the Town of Griswold shall collect the expense thereof from such owner or other persons.

**§ 195-7 Adoption of standards; liability**

The provisions of Connecticut General Statutes § 7-163a removing liability of the Borough of Jewett City and the Town of Griswold to any person injured by the presence of ice and/or snow on a public sidewalk are hereby adopted pursuant to the terms of said statute.

CITY OF DERBY  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE I GENERAL USE REGULATIONS  
CHAPTER 172 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

**§ 172-3 Duty of owner or occupant to remove snow and ice from sidewalks.**

The owner, occupant or the person having charge of any premises fronting upon any street, sidewalk, square or public place upon which a sidewalk has been constructed adjoining such premises shall keep the same free and clear from snow, ice and sleet, and whenever any snow, ice or sleet shall fall or accumulate upon such sidewalk, the owner, occupant or person having charge of the premises shall remove such accumulation within five hours after cessation of any storm causing such snow, ice or sleet if such storm ceases in the daytime and, if such storm ceases in the nighttime, then such accumulation shall be cleared from such walk before 12:00 noon of the succeeding day. When such accumulation of ice, snow or sleet cannot be removed, the owner, occupant or person having charge of the premises adjoining the sidewalk whereon such snow, ice or sleet shall have accumulated shall cause such accumulation of snow, ice or sleet to be covered with sand or some other material that will render such sidewalk safe for public travel.

**§ 172-4 Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks upon failure of owner so to do.**

In the event that any owner, occupant or person having charge of any premises described in §§ 172-2 and 172-3 shall fail to keep the sidewalks free and clear of accumulations of snow, ice or sleet or shall fail to keep such accumulations properly sanded or protected with other material so as to render the same safe for public travel, the Street Commissioner may thereupon cause such sidewalk or gutters, or both, to be cleared of such accumulations or to be covered with sand or other suitable material, and the expense thereof shall be collected from such owner, occupant or person having the property adjoining such sidewalk or gutter in charge.

**§ 172-5 Liability for nonremoval of snow or ice.**

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 13a-149 of the General Statutes or any other general statute or Special Act, the City of Derby shall not be liable to any person injured in person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk, unless said City of Derby is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street, provided that said City of Derby shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such sidewalk.

B. The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the City of Derby had prior to January 1, 1982, and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of said injury. No action to recover damages for injury to the person or to property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk against a person who owns or is in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall be brought but within two years from the date when the injury is first sustained.



CITY OF NORWICH  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL  
CHAPTER 19 STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND SUBDIVISIONS

**Sec. 19-1. Snow, sleet and ice removal or sanding--Time for removal of snow and sleet by private person.**

The owner, occupant or any person having the care of any building or lot of land bordering on any street, square, or public place in the city where there is a sidewalk shall cause to be removed there from all snow and sleet within three hours after the same shall have fallen, been deposited or found, or within three hours after sunrise when the same shall have occurred in the nighttime.

**Sec. 19-2. Same--Removing or sanding ice by private person.**

Whenever the sidewalk, or any part thereof, adjoining or fronting any building or lot of land, or any street, square, or public place shall be covered with ice, it shall be the duty of the owner, occupant or any person having the care of such building or lot, during the daytime, within two hours after sunrise or after the same shall have formed, to cause such sidewalk to be made safe and convenient by removing the ice there from, or by covering the same with sand or some other suitable substance.

**Sec. 19-3. Same--Violation by private person.**

The owner, occupant or any person having the care of any building or lot of land, and whose duty it is to clear the same, who shall violate any of the provisions of sections 19-1 and 19-2, or refuse or neglect to comply with the same shall be guilty of an offense for every four hours such person shall neglect to comply with any such provision after notice from the director of public works or any policeman of the city.

**Sec. 19-4. Same--Removal by city on failure of private person.**

If any sidewalk shall remain encumbered with snow, ice or sleet for four hours after the owner or person having the charge or care of the lot or building bordering on such sidewalk and legally liable to clear the same has been notified by the director of public works or a policeman to remove the same, the director of public works shall cause the same to be cleared or sanded, as the case may be, and the city shall collect the expense thereof from such owner or other persons.

**Sec. 19-4.1. Act of the general assembly concerning municipal liability for ice and snow on sidewalks adopted by reference.**

The provisions of G.S. § 7-163a removing liability of the city to any person injured by the presence of ice and/or snow on a public sidewalk are hereby adopted pursuant to the terms of said public act.



CITY OF  
MIDDLETOWN CODE  
OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS  
CHAPTER 262 STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PARKING AREAS

**§ 262-18. Snow and ice on sidewalks abutting private property.**

A. The provisions of C.G.S. § 7-163a are hereby adopted effective July 1, 1982.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of C.G.S. § 13a-149 or any other general statute or special act, the City shall not be liable to any person injured in person or property caused by the presence of snow or ice on a public sidewalk unless the City is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street, provided that the City shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such Sidewalk.

C. The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of snow or ice on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the City had prior to July 1, 1982, and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of said injury.

D. No action to recover damages for injury to the person or to property caused by the presence of snow or ice on a public sidewalk against a person who owns or is in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall be brought but within two years from the date when the injury is first sustained.

**§ 262-19. Removal of snow from sidewalks; fine.**

**[Added 4-5-1982; amended 11-7-1994; 6-2-2014 by Ord. No. 09-14]**

A. The owner, agent of the owner, or occupant of premises bordering on any street or public place within the town where there is an established sidewalk shall cause to be removed therefrom any and all snow, ice, sleet, debris or any other obstruction within 24 hours after the weather-related event has ended. Any formation of ice upon a sidewalk shall be removed immediately, except that, when weather conditions are such as to make the removal of ice from a sidewalk impracticable, the sidewalk shall be made safe and convenient for travel by covering the ice with sand, salt, or other suitable substance that will provide adequate traction.

B. Whenever any owner, agent of the owner, or occupant of premises, as herein defined, whose duty it is to remove snow and ice or to otherwise make sidewalks safe for public travel, shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the same or shall otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of Subsection A, said person or entity shall first be issued a written warning. Said person or entity shall have 24 hours to cure the violation. If said violation is not cured within 24 hours, then said person or entity shall be issued a citation and fined \$75 for the first violation. The City shall not be required to provide more than one written warning to a person or entity per fiscal year

C. The fine will increase by \$25 for each storm thereafter during the same fiscal year if sidewalks are not properly treated as described above. Said fine shall never exceed \$250

D. Any fines not promptly paid will be referred to the City's collection firm

**§ 262-20. Snow and ice on sidewalks abutting City property.**

The Public Works Department shall clear or cause to be cleared of snow and ice all crosswalks and all public sidewalks abutting property owned by or in possession and control of the City, except such sidewalks as are the responsibility of other City departments, and such other City departments shall clear or cause to be cleared of snow and ice all sidewalks abutting property in the possession and control of such departments.

TOWN OF WESTPORT  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE IV STREETS AND SIDEWALKS  
CHAPTER 50 STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS

**Sec. 50-404. Penalties for offenses.**

The Director of Public Works is authorized to impose monetary penalties for a violation of maintenance as set forth in Section 50-406, removal of ice and snow as set forth in Section 50-407, and the removal of barriers, obstructions or overgrowths as set forth in Section 50-408, upon the failure of the owner, or person in possession and control to do so after notice, if required in this article. Violation of any provision of this article shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$90.00, payable to the Town. Each violation of this article shall be a separate and distinct offense, and in the case of a continuing violation, each day's continuance thereof shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

**Sec. 50-405. Municipal liability.**

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of C.G.S. § 7-163a, and notwithstanding the provisions of C.G.S. § 13a-149, or any other General Statute or special act, the Town shall not be liable to any person injured in person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a business use sidewalk, unless the Town is the owner or person in possession and control of property abutting such business use sidewalk, other than property used as a highway or street, provided that the Town shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such business use sidewalk.

(b) The owner or person in possession and control of property abutting a business use sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such business use sidewalk toward the portion of the business use sidewalk abutting his or her property as the Town had prior to the effective date of the ordinance from which this article is derived and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of said injury.

(c) Any action to recover damages for injury to the person or to property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a business use sidewalk against the person who owns or is in possession and control of property abutting a business use sidewalk shall be brought within two years from the date when the injury is first sustained.

**Sec. 50-407. Business use sidewalks--Snow and ice removal.**

The owner or person in possession and control of any property adjoining any business use sidewalk shall provide for the removal of snow and ice from such business use sidewalk within 24 hours after the deposit or formation of snow or ice.

**Sec. 50-408. Obstructions prohibited; exceptions.**

Except as provided in Section 50-410, no owner, or person in possession and control of any property adjoining any sidewalk abutting a public street in the Town shall permit any barrier or obstruction, including overgrowth of brush or shrubs, to interfere with the use of said sidewalk.

Refuse containers may be placed on sidewalks for purposes of collection for a period not to exceed 12 hours. The owner shall be allowed a period of 14 days after receipt of written notice by certified mail from the Director of Public Works or his/her designee, to remove such overgrowth of brush, shrubs and other foliage.

**Sec. 50-409. Costs recovery for removal, repair; certificate of lien.**

The Director of Public Works or his/her designee is authorized to cause repairs or replacements to be made as set forth in Section 50-406, ice and snow to be removed as set forth in Section 50-407, and the removal of barriers, obstructions or overgrowths as set forth in Section 50-408, upon the failure of the owner, or person in possession and control to do so after notice, if required herein. The expense of such labor and/or material, including any and all administration and inspection costs incurred in carrying out the purposes of this article shall be a lien upon the premises adjoining the sidewalk. The Director of Public Works, or his/her designee, shall cause a certificate of lien to be recorded in the Town Clerk's office within 60 days after completion of such removal, repair or replacement, if the cost is not reimbursed.

CITY OF NEW LONDON  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE IV REMOVAL OF SNOW, ICE AND SLEET  
CHAPTER 18 STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES

**Sec. 18-74. Duty of owner of land.**

(a) Every owner of land abutting upon a sidewalk, graded, or paved, on any street, avenue or public place, shall within six (6) hours after the cessation of any snow, ice or sleet storm, or after the formation of any ice or sleet thereon, remove such snow, ice or sleet from such sidewalk; provided, however, that if such snow, ice or sleet shall have accumulated on such walk after 8:00 p.m. and before sunrise of the succeeding day, the same shall be removed before 9:00 a.m. of the succeeding day.

(b) Property owners shall not deposit and shall not permit to be deposited snow from their premises, driveways, or sidewalks in front of their premises, upon public streets or highways.

**Sec. 18-75. Right to use ashes, sand or similar material.**

In case the snow and ice on such sidewalk shall be frozen so hard that it cannot be removed, such owner of land, as aforesaid, shall within the time specified in the preceding section, cause the sidewalk abutting on said premises to be strewn with ashes, sand or similar suitable material, so that such sidewalk shall be made reasonably safe for travel, and shall as soon thereafter as the weather shall permit thoroughly clean said sidewalk.

**Sec. 18-76. Reports of violations.**

It shall be the duty of the police force to report for prosecution all cases of violation of, or refusal or neglect to comply with the provisions of this article relating to ice or snow.

**Sec. 18-77. Removal upon direction of city manager.**

It shall be the duty of the police force to report promptly to the city manager all cases of neglect or failure to remove snow or ice from sidewalks by the owner of premises adjoining and fronting on any sidewalk within the time limited by this article, and upon such report being made the city manager shall cause such snow or ice to be removed and the expense of such removal shall be a debt due to the city, and if not sooner paid, shall be added to the tax bill of the owner of such land next to be made out and shall be a lien upon the premises adjoining such walk, provided the city manager shall cause a certificate of lien to be recorded in the town clerk's office within sixty (60) days from the completion of such removal of snow and ice.

**Sec. 18-78. Duty of superintendent of streets.**

It shall be the duty of the superintendent of streets to cause to be cleared and cared for in accordance with the foregoing provisions, all sidewalks properly belonging to the City of New London and not adjoining the land of private persons except such sidewalks as are in special charge of other city officials.

### **Sec. 18-79. Violations and penalties.**

Each owner of land in this city abutting upon any street, avenue or public way in said city, where there is a sidewalk, graded or paved, who fails to comply with the requirements of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

### **Sec. 18-80. Liability of city for injuries caused by presence of snow and ice on public way.**

(a) The City of New London hereby adopts the provisions of Public Act No. 81-340 entitled 'An Act Concerning Municipality Liability for Ice and Snow on Public Sidewalks'.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13a-149 of the general statutes or any other general statute or special act, the City of New London shall not be liable to any person injured, in person or property, by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk unless said City of New London is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street, provided the City of New

London shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such sidewalk.

(c) (1) The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the City of New London had prior to the date of this section, and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property, where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of said injury.

(2) No action to recover damages for injury to the person or to property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk, against a person who owns or is in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk, shall be brought except within two (2) years from the date when the injury is first sustained.

CITY OF HARTFORD  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE V SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL  
CHAPTER 31 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

**Sec. 31-141. Enforcement of article.**

It shall be the duty of the department of police, under the direction of the chief of police, to see that the provisions of this article are complied with.

**Sec. 31-142. Defense available to owners for violations by tenants.**

In prosecutions against any property owner arising from a violation of this article, the defendant shall be allowed to show that the occupant of the premises has agreed to conform to the provisions of this article and to save the owner harmless from all fines for violation thereof. Proof of such agreement shall be a sufficient defense to such prosecution.

**Sec. 31-143. Duty of property owner, occupant, etc., to remove snow from sidewalks.**

The tenant, occupant, owner or agent of any premises abutting upon any street or public place in the city where there is a sidewalk graded, paved or planked, shall cause all snow to be removed from such sidewalk within six (6) hours after it has fallen, been deposited or found, or within three (3) hours after sunrise when the snow has fallen in the nighttime.

**Sec. 31-144. Fire hydrants to be cleared.**

All snow and ice accumulating in the street higher than a point four (4) inches below the bottom of the lowest outlet on any fire hydrant, and within a radius of three (3) feet from the center of such hydrant, shall be removed by the tenant, occupant, owner or agent of the premises fronting on that portion of the street, within six (6) hours after such snow and ice has ceased to fall or accumulate, or within three (3) hours after sunrise when the snow has fallen in the nighttime.

**Sec. 31-145. Removing or sanding ice and sleet on sidewalks.**

Whenever any sidewalk mentioned in section 31-143, or any part thereof, is covered with ice, the tenant, occupant, owner or agent of the premises shall, within six (6) hours thereafter or within three (3) hours after sunrise cause such sidewalk to be made safe and convenient by removing the ice there from, or by covering the sidewalk with sand or some other suitable substance.

**Sec. 31-146. Penalty for snow and ice violations.**

The tenant, occupant, owner or agent of any premises whose duty it is to clear the sidewalk adjacent thereto who violates any of the provisions of sections 31-143 through 31-145, section 31-149, or section 31-151 or who refuses or neglects to comply with such sections shall be subject to the issuance of a citation and a fine of ninety-nine dollars (\$99.00). Each day such violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.

### **Sec. 31-147. Liability of officers and directors of corporations.**

Whenever a corporation violates the provisions of sections 31-143 through 31-145, the officers and directors of such corporation shall be personally liable to pay any fine incurred by such corporation.

### **Sec. 31-148. Duty of city officers to clear sidewalks owned by city; liability.**

It shall be the duty of the director of public works to cause to be cleared and cared for, in accordance with this article, all sidewalks belonging to the city not adjoining the land of private persons, except such sidewalks as are under the special charge of other officers. It shall be the duty of all such city officers to cause to be cleared, in accordance with this article, all sidewalks fronting on land under their official charge. The director of public works and other city officers shall be personally liable to the same penalties for any neglect in relation to the sidewalks under their official charge as are private persons for a like offense.

### **Sec. 31-149. Removal of snow from roofs.**

Every tenant, occupant, owner or agent having control of a building standing upon or so near the line of a street that snow slides from the roof may endanger public travel shall, within a reasonable time after the termination or abatement of a snowstorm, cause the snow to be removed from the roof thereof, in such manner as will not endanger travelers.

### **Sec. 31-150. Snow and ice on public sidewalks.**

(a) *State law adopted.* The provisions of G.S. § 7-163a are hereby adopted, and are set forth in subsections (b) and (c).

(b) *Liability of city.* Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. § 13a-149 or any other general statute or special act, the city shall not be liable to any person injured in person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk unless the city is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street provided the city shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to such sidewalk.

(c) *Liability, duty of abutting landowner:*

(1) The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the municipality had prior to the effective date of this section adopted pursuant to the provisions of G.S. § 7-163a and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of such duty is the proximate cause of such injury;

(2) No action to recover damages for injury to the person or to property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk against a person who owns or is in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall be brought but within two (2) years from the date when the injury is first sustained.



**Sec. 31-151. Throwing snow and ice into streets.**

No person shall throw or put, or cause to be thrown or put, any snow or ice from any private property or from any area in the rear or outside of the legally laid-out sidewalk into any street in the city that creates a safety hazard.

**Sec. 31-152. Additional Code sections.**

Tenants, occupants, owners or agents of any premises should refer to Chapter 15, Article I of this Code for additional duties regarding garbage and refuse.

CITY OF NORWALK  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE  
CHAPTER 95 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

§ 95-10. Snow and ice removal from sidewalks.

A. The provisions of Section 7-163a of the Connecticut General Statutes are hereby adopted and are set forth in Subsections B, C, D and E hereof.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 13a-149 of the Connecticut General Statutes or any other general or special act, the City shall not be liable to any person for injury to person or property due to the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk unless the City is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk, other than land used as a highway or street, provided that the City shall be liable for its affirmative acts with respect to any such sidewalk under its possession and control.

C. The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the City had prior to the effective date of this chapter and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of said injury.

D. No action to recover damages for injury to person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk against a person who owns or is in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall be brought but within two years from the date when the injury is first sustained.

E. Whenever the public sidewalk shall be wholly or partially covered by snow or ice, it shall be the duty of the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk to cause such sidewalk to be made safe and convenient by removing the snow therefrom within the first six hours of daylight immediately following the accumulation of such snow thereon or, in the case of ice, by covering the same with sand or other suitable material within the first six hours of daylight following the accumulation of such ice, and then renewing such treatment as often as may be necessary to keep such sidewalk safe and convenient. In case of the failure or neglect of the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting the public sidewalk to comply with this subsection, the Director may cause the same to be done, and the expense thereof shall be collectible from the person so failing or neglecting, in an action of debt brought in the name of the City under this section. Any person who fails or neglects to comply with this subsection shall also be liable for a penalty or fine in an amount established in accordance with § 90-4, Approval of rates and fees.  
[Amended 6-23-2009]

CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE II NUISANCES, OBSTRUCTIONS AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS  
CHAPTER 27 STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC WAYS

**Sec. 78-32. Ice, snow, sleet--Duty of abutting owner to remove or abate.**

(a) *Removal.* The owner of land or a building, bridge or premises fronting upon the sidewalk, or connected with a footway, shall remove snow, sleet or ice within a minimum of forty-two (42) inches of such property including handicap ramps within twenty-four (24) hours after a storm ends.

(b) *Abatement.* If the owner of the property referred to in subsection (a) cannot entirely remove the snow, sleet or ice within the aforesaid parameters, he/she shall cover the affected portion(s) with an abrasive substance so as to keep the property in a reasonably safe condition at all times.

(c) *Penalty.* If a property owner fails to comply with subsections (a) and (b), above, within twenty-four (24) hours after receiving notice to remove the snow, sleet or ice from an appropriate city official, said owner shall be punished by a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine, or an amount up to the maximum allowed under state statute. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

**Sec. 78-33. Ice, snow, sleet--Duty of abutting property owner to clean gutters and catch basin tops.**

Every person having the care of any property abutting a paved gutter and catch basin top shall keep them free from snow, ice, sleet and any other substance so as to permit the free passage of water through them. Failure to comply with this section shall result in an infraction and a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or an amount up to the maximum allowed under state statute. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

**Sec. 78-34. Same--Disposal by throwing into streets.**

No person or property owner shall throw, place or plow ice or snow into any street in the city, nor cause such disposal. Failure to comply with this section shall result in an infraction and a fine of one hundred dollar (\$100.00), or an amount up to the maximum allowed under state statute. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

CITY OF DANBURY  
CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL  
CHAPTER 17 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

**Sec. 17-7. Removal of snow, ice from sidewalks.**

(a) Every person owning or occupying any land fronting upon any sidewalk within the city shall, within four (4) hours of daylight immediately following the cessation of any fall of snow, or accumulation of ice thereon, cause the same to be removed, so that travel upon said sidewalk shall not be obstructed, dangerous or inconvenient, and upon failure so to do within the time limit, shall be punished as provided in Section 1-7. After the expiration of the time limit as aforesaid, if such snow and ice shall not have been removed, the superintendent of highways or his designee shall cause the same to be removed at the expense of such owner or occupier, such expense to be recovered from either the owner or occupier in an action brought in the name of the city.

(b) Every person, firm, corporation, association or partnership owning any land fronting on any sidewalk within the City of Danbury shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of said sidewalk. The superintendent of highways or his designee may issue an order to any such owner requiring him to repair any sidewalk abutting his property within such period of time as is specified in said order. If the owner of any such property fails to comply with a proper order of the superintendent of highways or his designee, the superintendent of highways shall cause repairs as specified to be made at the expense of such owner, such expense may be recovered from the owner of said abutting property in an action brought in the name of the City of Danbury.

(c) All lawful expenses incurred by the City of Danbury by virtue of subsection 17-7(a) or 17-7(b) shall accrue interest at a rate of twelve (12) per cent per annum and shall be a lien upon the premises adjoining such walk provided that the superintendent of highways shall cause a certificate of lien to be recorded in the town clerk's office within sixty (60) days of the completion of any necessary repair or removal authorized herein.

(d) Pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 81-340 and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 13a-149 of the General Statutes or any other General Statute or Special Act, the City of Danbury shall not be liable to any person injured in person or property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk unless the City of Danbury is the owner or person in possession and control of land abutting such sidewalk. The provisions hereof shall not relieve the City of Danbury from any liability imposed by law resulting from its affirmative acts with respect to such sidewalk.

(e) The owner or person in possession and control of land abutting a public sidewalk shall have the same duty of care with respect to the presence of ice or snow on such sidewalk toward the portion of the sidewalk abutting his property as the City of Danbury had prior to the effective date hereof and shall be liable to persons injured in person or property where a breach of said duty is the proximate cause of such injury.

(f) No action to recover damages for injury to the person or to property caused by the presence of ice or snow on a public sidewalk against the person who owns or is in possession and control of

land abutting a public sidewalk shall be brought but within two (2) years from the date when the injury is first sustained.

(g) No person shall place or cause to be placed any snow, ice, sand or debris that obstructs, may obstruct or otherwise interfere with safe passage upon, or otherwise interfere with the regular and proper maintenance or drainage of any street, road, public highway, sidewalk or other public property in the city.

(h) Any Danbury Police Officer or the director of public works or his designee, shall be authorized to issue citations providing for penalties of ninety dollars (\$90.00) per violation for violations of this section.

(Code 1925, § 175; Ord. No. 263, 11-20-80; Ord. No. 286, 10-5-82; Ord. No. 694, 12-2-08)

## Section 3

# Connecticut Municipal Snow Removal Policies

## **Town of Southbury Snow Removal Policy**

**OBJECTIVE:** It is the goal and intent of the Southbury Department of Public Works to provide timely, efficient and cost-effective snow removal, ice control and winter maintenance on the roadways of the Town for the safety and benefit of the Town's residents and the general motoring public.

**PROCEDURES:** The objective stated above will be achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures and tasks outlined in the Southbury Department of Public Works Procedures for Snow Removal, Ice Control and Winter Maintenance Operations. Due to the many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm and/or weather event may require a slightly different effort and/or emphasis on the range of maintenance tasks, which together, represent the overall winter road maintenance strategy.

**LEVEL OF SERVICE:** It is not always possible to maintain a snow and ice-free road during the entire duration of a given storm event. It is the intention of the Southbury Department of Public Works to provide the safest access possible, given the weather conditions and available resources, to homes, businesses and municipal facilities during winter storms.

It is our policy to begin snow removal operations upon accumulations of approximately two-inches of snowfall. The Director of Public Works or his designee may, at his or her discretion based upon weather information reports, elect to begin to remove snow at greater or lesser accumulations.

Pre-treatment for snow and ice control may be initiated prior to the actual start of the storm. Treatment for snow and ice control may take place during the active portion of the storm if deemed effective or may be applied following the storm to assist in cleanup operations. It should be noted that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 25 degrees, and may not be applied until it is warmer.

**COMMAND:** Direction of all winter maintenance activities for the Town of Southbury is vested with the Director of Public Works or his or her designee.

**EXECUTION:** The policy outlined above is intended to define the normal operating procedures for winter maintenance, snow removal and/or ice control for the Southbury Department of Public Works. One or more of the following, may delay or prevent the implementation of this policy or may affect the Department's ability to meet any or all of the goals of the Policy:

- Equipment Breakdown
- Snow Accumulation in Excess of 1" Per Hour
- Freezing Rain or Other Icing Conditions
- Traffic Congestion
- Emergencies
- Personnel Illness

**ADOPTION:** The Southbury Department of Public Works has adopted the Winter Road Maintenance

Policy effective July 2005. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with its content as it describes the conditions that one might expect to encounter before, during and following a winter storm event.

## PROCEDURES FOR SNOW REMOVAL, ICE CONTROL AND WINTER MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

**EQUIPMENT:** The Highway Division utilizes all the assets of the department as needed to address snow emergencies. A list of the current rolling stock assets is included in the appendices of this policy.

**ROUTES:** Currently, the Town of Southbury is divided into fourteen (14) treatment routes. Several of the treatment routes are comprised of more than one plow route such that there are twenty-one (21) major snowplow routes. Each of the routes encompasses both collector roads and residential streets. Additionally, there are four (4) small trucks with 4-way plows that are used to maintain emergency service facilities and municipal parking areas, plow gravel roads, clear cul-de-sacs, and to assist in support of trucks assigned specific routes.

The Town uses two (2) wheeled loaders and one (1) backhoe loader to load snow for removal to disposal areas should it accumulate to a point where it may restrict parking or reduce sightline distances at intersections. The Town employs one (1) road grader to remove "hard pack" or ice build-up and to push back snow windrows alongside rural roads. The Town also employs one (1) plow truck equipped with a wing plow to shelf back snow banks following heavy snowfalls. A hydraulic snow blower mounted on a tractor boom arm is used to clear snow banks not accessible to the Town's wing plow or grader. Snow removal from sidewalks at municipal facilities is the responsibility of the Outside Properties Division of the Southbury Public Works Department. Snow removal from sidewalks abutting private property is the responsibility of the abutting property owner in accordance with the Southbury Code of Ordinances Section 15-3.

**MANPOWER:** The Town of Southbury has twenty-three (23) full time personnel assigned to its winter maintenance operations. Four (4) or five (5) contracted trucks and drivers are also utilized.

**MATERIALS:** The Department of Public Works will use an average of approximately two thousand four hundred (2,400) tons of treated rock salt each season. Treated salt is employed by the Department of Public Works as a de-icing and anti-icing agent. A quantity of approximately eight hundred (800) tons of treated salt is purchased early each November and is stored in a covered salt bin at 60 Peter Rd. Treated salt is then purchased from a supplier as needed throughout the winter season and replenished in the storage building following each storm.

Unless weather conditions require a different approach, winter maintenance routes are pre-treated with an application of treated salt. The salt is applied to the center of the roadway where traffic can work the material traveling either way. The salt creates liquid brine which melts snow and/or ice, and resists snow and ice packing on the roadway. The road crown further assists with the spreading of the salt brine. While untreated salt is only effective to approximately 20 degrees Fahrenheit, the treated salt used by the Town will still provide some melting effects to about -5 degrees Fahrenheit.



The Department also maintains a stockpile of approximately 400 tons of sand/salt mixture (4 parts sand, 1 part salt) and a stock pile of about 500 tons of straight sand for use in isolated storm events such as ice storms, freezing rain and sub –zero storms that may require abrasives to improve the traction of the public’s motor vehicles. The supply of sand and sand/salt is stockpiled each fall alongside the Highway Division’s salt building and in the department’s storage yard.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** All of the Public Works rolling stock is equipped with high band radios capable of transmitting and receiving. Each equipment operator is assigned a unique call number. A list of all call numbers is displayed in each piece of equipment or truck. Radios are also maintained at the Highway Division garage and the Public Works main office. Through the central dispatch center at Police Headquarters Public Works personnel are able to communicate with the Town police and fire departments.

**SCHOOLS:** The Highway Department does not have the responsibility for the clearing of snow and sand/salt treatment of the School District’s access roads, driveways or parking lots. On days when school is in session, additional effort is made to coordinate winter maintenance operations with bus routing and student delivery.

The School Superintendent or his designated representative typically contacts the Department of Public Works to determine the condition of the municipality’s roads in order to determine whether it is safe to transport students using school buses. The School Superintendent or his designated representative then makes the decision to cancel or postpone school for that day.

**PARKING:** The Town has enacted a winter parking ban effective from November 15th to April 1st of each year. This ban prohibits parking in or on the Town's roads or rights-of-way (ROW). The Town has the right to tow or ticket violators. The purpose of this winter parking ban is to allow winter maintenance crews unobstructed snow removal and ice control routes, as much as possible, to maintain the maximum effectiveness of their efforts.

**PLOW ROUTE PRIORITIES:** With a total of one hundred thirty-two (132) miles of roads from which to remove snow and control ice and twenty-six (26) pieces of equipment to handle this responsibility, the Highway Division has to assign priorities for winter maintenance activity in order to maximize the effectiveness of their efforts for the motoring public.

1. During storms where the rate of snow fall or other conditions render it impossible to keep an entire route free from undue accumulation of snow or ice, priority will be given to keeping open all arterial streets, collector streets and other major traffic volume streets that comprise the network of streets vital to the movement of emergency service vehicles. Minor collector streets, residential streets and cul-de-sac streets will be opened as soon as conditions allow. Once all streets are opened efforts will be concentrated on pushing back and widening streets to their full width. At all times assistance will be rendered to emergency vehicles responding to calls.
2. School bus routes will be given first priority during school days. Each driver will endeavor to provide the best possible snow clearance on his plow route and aim to be completed one hour prior to the bus route start time.
3. The business district will be maintained as well as possible during business hours, with the main snow clearance effort to be done primarily during the hours of 11:00 PM. to 7:00 AM. Public safety is a real concern in the vicinity of retail and office buildings due to heavy vehicle and pedestrian

traffic in such areas.

4. Public parking areas at the rear of the Town Hall and other municipal building parking lots will be maintained by plowing during the winter storm. The application of slip resistant materials will be made after the storm if determined to be needed by the Road Foreman.

5. Transfer Station/Recycling Center: Transfer station personnel may be required to clear snow from the facilities driveways and access areas. If the facility is open during the snow or ice storm, personnel will plow access areas prior to opening for the public use. Public areas shall be kept as clear as possible to provide access which is as safe as reasonably possible. Sand and other slip resistant materials may be used in public areas. It often will not be possible to maintain ground surfaces clear of snow accumulation during transfer station operations but a reasonable effort will be made to function effectively during winter storms.

6. Fire Hydrants: The Department of Public Works is not responsible for the clearing of snow from fire hydrants. Owners of adjacent property generally clean snow from the vicinity of the hydrants. In extreme cases, the Heritage Water Company may dispatch personnel to clear hydrants.

7. Each specific plow route is depicted on the map (or list) attached to this policy.

#### ROADS AND SIDEWALKS NOT RECEIVING WINTER MAINTENANCE:

The Town of Southbury does not maintain a number of roadways during winter storms. It also does not clear snow or ice from sidewalks, other than those fronting on municipal property, as part of its ongoing winter maintenance activities. The areas not maintained by the Town include:

A. Private roads.

B. Park access ways or parking areas.

C. School District driveways, sidewalks and parking areas, which are the responsibility of the school district.

D. State Highways (CT Routes 6, 67, 172, 188 and Kettletown Road)

**SALT RESTRICTED AREAS:** The Town of Southbury has no established roadways or portion of roadways designated as “salt restricted” areas to protect water resources or other natural resources which may be impacted by roadway salt. A “salt restricted” area is one in which the municipality has determined it will minimize use of salt as part of its ice control efforts for winter maintenance.

**DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY:** The Town of Southbury is not responsible for damage to private property that is located within the public right-of-way. The right-of-way (ROW) is typically 50’ wide and extends approximately 12 feet to either side of the paved roadway surface. Property owners often confuse this area of public right-of-way with their property. Homeowners often extend lawns, place mailboxes, install sprinkler systems, plant flowers, shrubs and trees, erect fences or stone walls in these areas. These improvements often enhance the appearance of the property but create an obstruction to good maintenance of the roadway.

In the event of personal property damage, other than mailboxes, the Town of Southbury will only be responsible to repair or replace damaged property that is located on private property and not within the public right-of-way and that has actually been contacted or struck by the snow removal equipment. The Town's policy regarding mailbox damage is stated elsewhere - Mailbox Information.

POST STORM OPERATIONS: As determined by the Director of Public Works, the snow banks resulting from the previous accumulations shall be pushed back, using the plow or other suitable equipment to make space for future snow storms.

## **TOWN OF WINDSOR PUBLIC WORKS**

### **SNOW REMOVAL PLAN**

In Windsor, as throughout the New England states, winter can bring a variety of weather conditions which seem to come in extremes. The primary responsibility for keeping the street passable and safe for travel rests with Public Works. However, successful battles against the onslaught of winter also require the cooperation and assistance of informed citizens. This publication outlines the snow removal procedure of the Town and offers suggestions on how you can help. We hope you will keep it as a handy reference.

#### **Sand and Salt Trouble Spots**

When winter precipitation begins, causing icing conditions, Public Works, in coordination with the Police Department, dispatches a sufficient number of trucks to spread a mixture of sand and salt (5 to 1 ratio) on all major collector streets, hills, curves, and intersections followed by local streets, cul-de-sacs, and access roads. Sanding and salting will continue until the snow accumulation reaches about 2 inches.

You can assist by keeping your vehicles off the street at all times during winter storms. From November 15 through April 15, parking is prohibited on all Windsor streets between 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Parking is also prohibited on the streets of Windsor during a snow or ice storm which has been in progress one hour. The sand and salt operation will continue until the snow accumulation reaches about 2 inches in depth. The objective is to mix the first snow with salt and sand adjacent to the road surface to accelerate the melting process. This operation also increases traction, thereby providing safe starts and stops. You can assist by giving the sanding trucks a wide berth, thereby allowing them to maintain the constant speed required for the uniform application of sand and salt.

#### **Snow Plowing**

As the snow accumulates to a 2 inch depth, the 16 plow units begin the removal process along their assigned routes. Each vehicle traverses its entire route, making opening passes in the center of the road, after which it retraces its steps to completely clear the roadway.

*If it becomes necessary to shovel your driveway before the snow is completely pushed back, you can save yourself unnecessary work by putting the snow on the right side of your driveway (as you face the street) so it won't be pushed back in.*

#### **Sanding after Snow Plowing Completed**

After all 300 lane miles of road and 215 cul-de-sacs and dead ends have been cleared of snow, they will be resanded if conditions warrant.

### **Snow Loading and Removal**

During periods of extremely heavy snowfall, it may be necessary to truck snow away from certain commercial areas and narrow streets. The areas to be cleaned will be marked with no parking signs the night before. By honoring the temporary no parking areas, you will be helping to improve the efficiency of the removal operations.

### **Public Grounds & Sidewalk Areas**

Public Works is also responsible for making public grounds and designated sidewalks safe to use after storms. Their responsibility includes: the plowing of emergency service facilities, schools and public buildings, housing and commuter lots, and parks; and clearing sidewalk access to schools and public buildings, housing, and other designated walks. The plowing of parking spaces and walks in non-winter used parks or unused commuter lots will be eliminated or reduced.

Normally, snowplowing operations begin when a storm abates. Under conditions of heavy and/or extended snowfall, operations would begin sooner. A priority list has been established beginning with the emergency service facilities, schools and public buildings, housing and commuter lots, and parks. During periods of heavy snowfall, Public Works may be called upon to assist in clearing some of the parking areas.

Sidewalks and bike paths are cleared of snow and/or ice as soon as possible after each storm. Most of the walks and bike paths are initially cleared with the use of two sidewalk tractors, beginning in Windsor Center; one tractor then proceeds southerly and the other tractor proceeds northerly. Snow blowers and hand shovels are used in areas inaccessible to the tractors, such as narrow walks, steps and building entrances.

Sidewalks are salted or sanded as needed by hand or with the tractors. The parking areas are sanded by Public Works.

Skating ponds will be cleared, depending upon ice/weather conditions and only during regular work hours.

### **General Information**

At any time during a storm, Public Works may be called at (860) 285-1855 for further information. In the event of a major storm or disaster in the Town of Windsor, the Mayor or Town Manager may declare a state of emergency. At that time, Civil Preparedness will be staffed and all resources of the town mobilized. Up-to-date information will then be available from the Civil Preparedness offices, at (860) 285-1880.

**Winter Parking Regulations**

No vehicle shall be parked on the streets of Windsor between 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. between November 15 and April 15.

No vehicle shall be parked on the streets of Windsor during a snow or ice storm that has been in progress one hour.

No vehicle shall be parked or left on the traveled portion of a street or highway so as to impede normal snow plowing operations and the free flow of traffic during snow storms.

**Sidewalk Clearing**

Town Ordinance requires the owner of any premises adjoining any public sidewalk to remove all snow, sleet and ice to a minimum width of four feet within twelve hours after accumulation or within 12 hours from sunrise if the accumulation occurred during the night. When necessary, due to the severity of the storm, the time to clear sidewalks may be expanded up to 36 hours. Do not throw snow onto the street. Public Works is responsible for all walks adjacent to Town-owned property.

**Fire Hydrant Clearing**

Property owners abutting fire hydrants are required by local ordinance to keep them properly cleared of snow and ice. This includes clearing a path of at least three feet wide from the edge of the street to the hydrant, as well as a radius of three feet around the hydrant itself. This must be done within 12 hours of a storm, or within 12 hours after sunrise following a storm.

**Salted Sand**

Piles of salted sand are available for residential use in the parking lots at Sharshon Park; L.P. Wilson Community Center; Mechanic Street Commuter Parking Lot; Oliver Ellsworth School; the Public Works Complex; Poquonock Fire House; and the Rainbow Fire House.

**Mailbox Damage**

Mailbox repairs and replacements are the homeowner's responsibility; however, if damage is caused by the Town, the Town will replace mailboxes in good condition with similar mailboxes.

**Curb and Lawn Damage**

Damage to curbs and lawn areas will be repaired in the Spring. Damage to privately owned lawn sprinkler systems that were installed within the Town right of way without a permit are the responsibility of the owner. The Town will not be responsible for damage to these installations.

**Handy Phone Numbers**

- Public Works 285-1855
  - Parks & Grounds Maintenance 285-1884
  - Recreation (Ice Skating) 285-1988
  - Police Department (Non-emergency) 688-5273
  - Police Department (Emergencies) 911
  - Civil Preparedness 285-1880
- (Declared Emergencies Only)

**Winter Driving Tips**

- Have antifreeze, battery, heater, defroster and windshield wipers checked.
- Install snow tires and make sure they are in good condition.
- Carry jumper cables.
- Carry a small shovel, a bag of salt or sand, and emergency tire chains.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full at all times.
- Clean all the snow off of your car, including head and tail lights, before you drive.
- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the car in front of you.
- Travel during winter storms may take twice the normal driving time; plan accordingly and drive safely.
- Slow down before you have to stop, especially when approaching an intersection.
- Come to a stop by carefully and lightly pumping your brakes.
- If you are caught in traffic, remember to reduce the use of accessories such as your radio, to minimize the drain on the battery.

## TOWN OF BRANFORD SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Help us, Help you

With winter upon us, The Town of Branford Public Works Department is asking for your cooperation in assisting to provide maximum service to all our residents in helping us keep our roads safe.

During snow storms there is **“no” parking** on the even numbered side of the road by Town Ordinance (sec 223-1 & sec 223-2) Vehicles parked on the even side of the road will be asked to move them so plow trucks can get down the road. Failure to move a vehicle could result in having it towed. During a substantial snowfall a parking ban may be enacted which would require no parking on both sides of the road. Parking ban announcements will be made through the local media.

Town ordinance also states that property owners are responsible for clearing all snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 8 hours of the end of the snowfall or precipitation (sec 216-42) The Public Works Department suggests that residents wait until Town plows have pushed back snow to the curb line before clearing the sidewalk areas. This generally happens after snow has stopped. **It is against the law to plow snow from driveways and walkways into the road.** Remember, residents are also responsible for their snow removal contractor’s actions.

Residents should also keep in mind that snow plows are designed to remove snow from the roadway to the edge of the road. It is likely that the plow will leave behind a windrow of snow in front of driveways. Residents are responsible for removing this snow.

Residents and private plowing contractors should take note that town ordinance prohibits snow to be placed on any public highway in such a manner as to impede or inconvenience travel on any roadway (216-429b)). Residents or private contractors will also be held responsible for any curb damage done as a result of plowing snow across roadways.

The Public Works Department suggests residents make certain their mailboxes are at least 42 inches above the roadway and set back slightly from the edge of the road so that the postal carrier can reach it, behind either face of curb or edge of road. Our department does not replace mailboxes that are displaced by snow or slush from plows. If contact with a plow can be shown, then it would be replaced.

This department strongly urges each homeowner to maintain the storm drain in front of or close to their home keeping it free and clear of any leaves or debris causing the drain to become clogged and not drain properly, which in some cases there would be freezing water and/or flooding. Thank you for assisting us, if you have any questions please feel free to call the Public Works Office at 488-4156.



**City of Bristol, Connecticut**  
Public Works - Winter Operations

**Per City ordinance "No person shall park a vehicle on any street or highway between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day during the period extending from December fifteenth to March fifteenth of each year."**

**The City can also impose a parking ban during an emergency - before 12/15 or after 3/15.**

**Snow/Ice Control** – The Department of Public Works is responsible for ice and snow control on City streets. The State Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for all State roads (Route 6, Route 72, Route 69, Route 229) within the City of Bristol.

Snow and ice control operations will be implemented based on weather forecasts, Police Department reports, snow accumulations, snow drifting, icy conditions and time of snowfall in relation to traffic volumes. Once snow and ice control operations begin, the City will use City employees, equipment, and private contractors as needed to provide this service in a safe and cost-effective manner.

City roads are divided into five (5) districts which coincide with City rubbish collection routes. Within each district, the City has classified streets based on street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community (i.e. emergency vehicle routes). High volume routes and main emergency vehicle routes are generally plowed first by City vehicles. Second priority is given to streets that provide access to schools, municipal buildings, and commercial businesses. Low volume residential streets are then done, followed by alleys and City parking lots. Every effort will be made to plan plowing of City streets to coincide with school bus routing (when school is in session) and religious services on weekends.

The City will clear snow and treat City sidewalks abutting City-owned property as needed. By City Ordinance (Sec 21-23) all other sidewalks, (except those maintained by The Bristol Board of Education, Bristol Housing Authority, and Bristol Parks Department) are the responsibility of the abutting property owner(s).

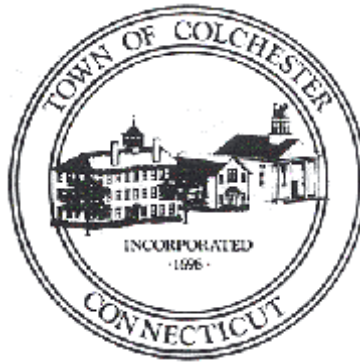
***What can residents do?***

- Adhere to parking bans when in effect. This helps keep streets clear and makes snow removal more efficient.
- Stay off the road when possible. If you must travel, use caution and keep your distance from vehicles involved in the snow fighting effort to allow them to perform safely.
- Do not shovel or blow snow back onto roads or sidewalks cleared by the City. This can create a hazardous condition and is prohibited by City Ordinance.
- Ensure that your mailbox, if installed on the tree border (behind the curb) is in good repair and installed properly to avoid damage by plows.
- Clear catch basins near your residence to ensure that storm runoff can drain properly.

If you have any concerns regarding the plowing or sanding of City Streets, please call the Public Works Dispatcher at 584-7791.

**Sand** – (During the Winter season) Free supplies of a sand and salt mixture for snow and ice conditions is available to residents in small quantities in front of the City Dog Pound on Vincent P. Kelly Road (off of Middle Street). We ask that you only fill containers for residential use, we do not allow trucks to be loaded.

**Mailbox damage due to City plowing**– In an effort to protect your mailbox from winter plowing, we suggest that your mailbox be set so that no portion of the box, arm or post is any closer than ten inches from the gutter. If your mailbox is not properly placed, the Public Works Department will not be held liable for damage that might occur as a result of snow plowing operations. If your mailbox is damaged due to the snow plowing operation, please report all mailbox damage to the Public Works Dispatcher at 584-7791. You will be asked your name, telephone number, when it happened (date, time), who did it (city or contract plow, truck number), and whether or not your can make temporary repair to continue mail delivery. This information will be referred to the Streets Division and if confirmed, repair will be made.



## **SNOW AND ICE CONTROL PLAN**

**Prepared by:  
Public Works Department  
Town of Colchester  
127 Norwich  
Avenue  
Colchester, Connecticut**

Adopted by Colchester Board of Selectmen on 10-14-99  
*Revised and approved by the Colchester Board of Selectmen on 12-20-07*

### **I. General Statement**

The purpose of this document is to have in place a written plan to respond to the snow and ice control needs for roads maintained by the Town of Colchester (the "Plan"). This Plan defines the responsibilities of both the Town of Colchester and the Public during snow and ice control activities.

Notwithstanding the circumstances involved with changing climatic conditions, the Town will endeavor to keep Town-maintained roads in a reasonably safe condition for travelers. The Town will endeavor to exercise reasonable care and diligence in the performance of their duties, consistent with the intent of this Plan. Travelers who use Town-maintained roads are expected to demonstrate due care and reasonable caution, especially under adverse weather conditions.

Any and all statements included in this Plan shall supercede any previous written, oral, or past practice procedures, unless otherwise stated herein or specifically amended orally or in writing by the Director of Public Works or the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Colchester.

### **II. Duration of Plan**

Emergencies notwithstanding, this policy shall be considered guidelines for use in the Public Works Department defined as "Winter Maintenance Season", generally from 15 November through 15 April, annually. These guidelines shall be used during this period regardless of time of day or day of week. The Department is prepared at any time during this period to suspend normal operations and initiate snow and ice control activities as described in these guidelines.

### **III. Connecticut General Statute**

Section 13a-107: Selectmen are to open highway blocked by snow. Whenever any highway becomes blocked with snow to an extent that renders the same impassable for public travel, the selectmen of the Town in which such highway is located shall cause such highway to be opened for public travel at the expense of such Town within a reasonable time thereafter, if they find the same to be required for public convenience and necessity. Any selectman who fails to open any highway so blocked, when requested in writing to do so by six taxpayers residing on or near such highway, shall be fined ten dollars. The provision shall not apply to any highway within the limits of any city or borough, unless the Town has the supervision of the highways in such city or borough.

### **IV. General Procedures**

Snow and ice control work must be carried out on the premise that such work is under emergency conditions. Therefore, proper advanced preparation is necessary. This preparation includes obtaining the necessary materials for use during winter snow and ice control operations, maintenance of equipment used prior, during, and after these operations, and a plan for scheduling and directing personnel.

Materials - Suitable quantities of suitable materials shall be obtained and stored in preparation for use for snow and ice control operations. New technologies are allowing the use of new products such as treated salt to be used in conjunction with or in place of, a sand/salt mix. Other treatments may be developed from time to time. These products may be used as approved by the Director.

Prior to the Winter Maintenance Season, arrangements shall be made for the delivery and storage of suitable quantities of materials for the anticipated duration of single or multiple storm events. If necessary, additional quantities shall be available should the need arise. Any company supplying snow and ice control materials must be capable of delivering additional quantities in a short turnaround time after requested. Storage shall be at a location convenient for efficient use during snow and ice control activities. Storage of these materials shall be consistent with all applicable standards and regulations.

Equipment – All snow and ice control equipment shall be installed and checked for proper operation in mid-October to provide sufficient time for unanticipated maintenance to be performed prior to 15 November. Beginning with the first weekend after 15 November, all vehicles shall be dressed for winter snow and ice control work prior to the end of work on the last work day prior to the weekend (or holiday) unless otherwise directed by the Public Works Director or Highway Supervisor. All equipment shall be thoroughly checked prior to leaving the yard in accordance with CDL requirements with a pre-trip check list filled out. All vehicles shall be evaluated throughout the work period by the driver with any problems identified and reported to the Supervisor. Any significant problems shall be reported immediately directly to the fleet maintenance department in accordance with standard practice.

Overloading Vehicles – No vehicle shall be intentionally overloaded. While it is not possible to weigh each vehicle during snow and ice control activities, the Town of Colchester has taken the effort to weigh each truck and each truck axle during undressed, dressed, loaded with plow up and

loaded with plow down configurations in an effort to ensure that no vehicle will be overloaded or that any component of the vehicle will be overloaded. This information was used to determine the acceptable amount of snow and ice control material that can be safely loaded into the dump body of each truck.

**Plow Routes** – A master list of plow routes shall be reviewed and updated annually and maintained by the Public Works Director. Factors used to determine plow routes (both order and number of roads) shall include, but not be limited to, traffic levels on streets; types of traffic using streets; routes used to access maintenance routes; maximizing personnel and equipment; and ability to provide contingency routes/plans. Plow route order shall give priority to heavily traveled/collector roads and roads with steep hills. Each driver shall be given a copy of all routes.

Each driver shall be responsible for, and make themselves familiar with, their routes. Drainage structures and other conditions should be marked. High risk areas (steep hills, sharp corners, obstructions, etc.) should be identified and a proper response planned. Alternate driver(s) or contractors shall be familiar with each route to serve as back-up(s) in the event a driver is unable to report for duty.

**Supervision** – All Town Highway crew members and any contractors shall be under the ultimate supervision of the Public Works Director, First Selectman, or an appointed designee. The Highway Department Supervisor shall supervise field operations prior, during, and after storm events in conjunction with the Public Works Director.

**Call-out** – Call out of Highway crew members and any contractors for winter snow and ice control measures shall be determined by the Highway Supervisor and Public Works Director depending on the conditions of the storm event. Conditions used to evaluate the call out response include, but are not limited to, predicted quantity, intensity, duration, time, and area of impact of the storm. Call out, and release, will be made in accordance with the bargaining unit contract and CDL regulations.

**Storm Event** – All vehicles shall be properly inspected prior to leaving the garage. Plow activities and the sensible use of snow and ice control materials shall be conducted in accordance with the specific storm and road conditions. During a snow storm event, depending on the intensity and duration, priority will be given to keeping the center of the roadway as clear as possible (this will maximize the amount of roads that can be cleared as well as to better allow the salt brine to work on the roadway).

All vehicles shall be in constant radio contact with the Highway Supervisor. The Supervisor shall be notified immediately in the event of a breakdown or other critical or unusual nature. The Supervisor shall be notified any time a driver will be out of the truck (including breaks, meals, etc.). Any breaks, other than those included in the contract, shall be designated by the Supervisor to sustain safe snow and ice control operations. Otherwise, radio transmissions shall be kept to a minimum.

Flashing warning lights and strobes shall be used at all times while trucks are engaged in snow and ice control activities.

Plowing speed will depend on the type of snow and road condition. In no event, shall the speed of

the vehicle be such that the material is cast an excessive distance from the edge of the road. Plowing speeds shall be adjusted to prevent the showering of pedestrians, sidewalks, buildings, and vehicles. While it is understood some snow will cover driveway entrances, mailboxes, and sidewalks, there shall be no excessive speeding while engaged in snow and ice control operations.

When plowing into an intersection of a Town and State road, no snow shall be left on the travel portion of the State road as a result of the Town's operation.

Plowing and sensible application of snow and ice control material shall continue for the duration of the storm. After snow has ceased falling/accumulating and the centers of the roadways are clear, accumulated snow on the remaining portions of the road shall be pushed back as far as practical. Care should be taken during these pushing back operations to limit the amount of snow thrown onto already cleared driveways and sidewalks and in front of mailboxes. Intersections should be pushed back to provide sufficient turning radius and sight lines. Drainage inlets, outlets, structures, and leak-offs shall be opened to ensure unrestricted flow during thaw.

Upon completion of all plowing and material application activities, trucks shall be returned to the garage and re-inspected. All vehicles shall be thoroughly cleaned and greased. Any equipment malfunctions shall be reviewed by the Fleet Maintenance department and identified a repaired, acceptable for use, or removed from service for repair.

Release – Snow and ice control operations shall continue until one or more of the following levels of road condition have been established:

- (a) bare, uncovered roadways with all snow and ice pushed back to edge of pavement or curb with intersections and cul-de-sacs complete;
  - (b) covered, snowpacked, and treated roads with no accumulations greater than about 3 in. pushed back to edge of pavement or curb with intersections and cul-de-sacs complete;
  - (c) major collector and secondary roads opened up with a minimum of one lane of travel in each direction; this may include significant accumulations still on the roads, but vehicles properly equipped for winter driving with operators using appropriate caution, should be able to pass – local access roads, such as subdivision streets, may only be one travel lane for both directions. Routine access may be difficult in some areas. Emergency access available to all locations with the Town, with properly equipped emergency equipment;
  - (d) until such time as all or the majority of equipment and/or manpower has been expended in removal efforts, and further efforts at this stage would be counter-productive;
  - (e) at such time the Public Works Director feels continued operations would constitute imminent danger to the Public or Town employees;
  - (f) at such time it is determined that continued resource expenditures are in excess of what may be judicious use of public funds;
  - (g) the level of service is consistent with the specific instructions from the Public Works Director.
- At this point, the Highway Supervisor shall determine the need for additional removal efforts. This decision will be influenced by weather conditions, time of day, day of week, available resources, financial reserves, date, and other factors. Oral communication will be maintained between the Highway Department Supervisor and the Superintendent of Schools, Police Department shift commander, and other emergency departments/personnel so that a coordinated effort will be maintained.

Post Storm - Localized and isolated accumulations of snow (including drifts) and ice patches may exist or develop during or after snow and ice control operations. Melting during the day may result in ice patches forming as temperatures drop or overnight. Drainage areas resulting in frequent icing conditions, if identified, shall be kept thoroughly treated and may require the installation of warning signs. All “problem” locations shall be reported to the Supervisor and a record maintained. Such locations shall be investigated and efforts made to correct the source of the problem.

Time Limitations – All reasonable efforts will be made to attempt to have all roadways cleared to the curb line/edge of pavement within a total of 72 hours of the last snowfall. Except in cases of extremes, all Town roadways shall be cleared to an adequate level within 24 hours of the last snowfall, exclusive of turnarounds.

Post Storm Critique – The Supervisor shall hold a post storm critique after the first full call out storm to review route assignments, problem areas, damages to Town or personal property, other storm-related issues, and to obtain comments from crew members. During the remainder of the winter, periodic critiques shall be held as necessary with the full crew or with individual drivers.

Winter Vacations – Requests for vacation or personal time during the winter snow and ice control season shall be given as far in advance as possible to allow time to plan for the necessary coverage on that driver’s route.

Vacation or personal time granted during the winter season in which an employee wishes to be considered available for snow and ice control operations shall be paid at applicable rates in accordance with the contract.

Private Contractors – Private contractors will be used to supplement the operations of the Public Works Department staff and equipment. Contractors will be responsible for operator(s), vehicle equipment, maintenance, and fuel, as outlined in their contract. The Town will supply road snow and ice control materials. Contractors will be called in at the time of a full call out only as deemed appropriate by the Director or Highway Supervisor. Partial staff call out for spot work will be performed by Town staff.

Emergency Access – The Town of Colchester may in its sole discretion, perform minimal winter maintenance on such roadways of the Town that are unaccepted and normally do not receive such services, on a case by case basis. These services, if performed, will be strictly to maintain safe access for emergency equipment and personnel.

This may be considered where snow is in excess of 4 to 5 inches, or severe icing would impeded vehicles equipped for severe weather. This practice is not designed to accommodate the inconvenience associated with private roads that do not contract for, or do not have adequate maintenance. Nor is it designed to accommodate persons that use Town owned but generally not maintained rights of way. It is strictly to ensure the health and safety of the residents of Colchester and to ensure the safety of emergency personnel.

The Town of Colchester reserves the right to charge the private property owner(s) for services provided as a result of no or inadequate maintenance activities.



**Parking Ban** – In accordance with Town Ordinance 709 and 710, in the event of predictions or anticipation of winter storm events, the First Selectman or Public Works Director may request a parking ban be effected. This request shall be made public via television and/or radio announcement(s) and will be routed to the Police shift commander. Any vehicle found impeding snow and ice control operations during such bans will be referred to the Police Department with a request for removal.

**Mailboxes** – Postal Service regulations dictate the location of mailboxes and posts in close proximity to the edge of pavement within the Town right of way. This right of way is also the Town's snow shelf thereby creating a conflict when the two try to occupy the same space. Generally, the snow will win the battle and inevitably, mailboxes and posts may get damaged. All efforts shall be made by each operator to avoid damage to mailboxes and posts. However, should damage occur, the driver shall report the incident to the Supervisor and shall be responsible for restoring the box to the post or providing a replacement post (and/or box). Any aggrieved individual should be directed to contact the Public Works Department who will investigate the incident and determine if compensation is warranted. It is the practice of the Town of Colchester to provide a replacement mailbox and/or post if it is determined the damage resulted from the Town's snow and ice control operations. However, the Town is under no obligation to install such replacement materials, nor is the Town under any obligation to provide a replacement in kind to the damaged materials.

In addition, residents are encouraged to take all necessary precautions to protect their mailbox and post while not creating a road hazard.

**Driveways** – Reasonable attempts will be made to keep driveways clear of plowed snow and ice. However, it is virtually impossible to clear the roadways adequately without placing some snow and ice in driveway aprons. Any Town of Colchester employee found either placing snow deliberately in a driveway, or conversely, deliberately plowing a private driveway, shall be disciplined.

When plowing, shoveling, or blowing snow from driveways or sidewalks, no resident or contractor performing such work shall cause snow or ice to be left on the travel portion of the Town's road as a result of the resident's operation. Such action is considered a hazard and can result in unsafe driving conditions.

**Public Sand** – As long as such materials are readily available, mixed sand/salt for noncommercial residential use will be available at the west end of the Town Highway Garage parking lot. A pile of the mixed product will be replenished at the end of each work day. Each resident obtaining the sand/salt mix shall be limited to two, 5-gallon size buckets per visit in an effort to provide as many residents as possible the opportunity to participate in this service. Any resident identified as abusing this service will be requested to cease use immediately.

Under no circumstances will sand be distributed from the Public Works Garage, or will any Public employee load a private vehicle. Any commercial users found to be using any of these materials shall be referred to the Police Department for prosecution.



Use of Roads During Snow and Ice Control Activities – Residents and users of Colchester roads are requested to maintain a safe distance behind any Town vehicle engaged in winter snow and ice control activities. This distance will vary depending on the road, conditions, and time of day or night. However, a minimum of 200 ft. should be maintained behind these vehicles as they may stop or back up at any given time to perform snow and ice control activities.

Complaint Policy – Any complaint received by the Public Works Department resulting from poor clearing or damage shall be investigated. Staffing levels shall dictate the expediency in investigation of complaints of this nature. Upon investigation, the Department shall determine whether the complaint is justified or unfounded, and take appropriate action, if any, to rectify the problem. Complaints will be accepted generally only during normal business hours. However, any complaints initiated during a storm shall be investigated.

Lines of Authority – The Highway Supervisor shall have the authority, upon coordination with the Public Works Director or First Selectman, to designate an individual to act in his behalf for individual situations, specific incidents, or entire snow and ice control emergencies, as is necessary to implement this Plan.

Review/Revisions - This Plan shall be reviewed annually by the Public Works Department and revised as necessary to maintain the intent of the Plan. All revisions shall be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

## Section 4

**Snow Removal suggestions, advice, and informative articles.**

## **Best Management Practices for Disposal of Snow Accumulations from Roadways and Parking Lots**

**Purpose:** These guidelines have been developed to clarify DEP recommendations to state and municipal officials, and others regarding the removal and disposal of snow accumulations from roadways and parking lots. For purposes of this guidance snow accumulations refers to snow banks and snow piles that are removed by front-end loader or by loading on trucks for disposal. This guidance does not apply to normal snow plowing operations that must, inevitably, discharge some snow into wetlands and watercourses.

**Problem:** Current road maintenance activities include removal of snow accumulations from bridges, roads and parking areas for the purpose of providing more space for subsequent snow storms and for ease of travel and parking. Sometimes this snow is moved by truck or with a front-end loader and deposited directly into surface waters of the state including streams, wetlands and Long Island Sound. This practice is not recommended due to the presence of dirt, salt, litter and other debris, which are routinely mixed in the accumulated snow. Under normal conditions of snowmelt, the majority of these contaminants remain on or next to the paved surface or may be captured in storm water catch basins. These contaminants can then be swept from streets and bridges or vacuumed from catch basin sumps. However, when accumulated snow is collected and dumped into surface waters, this mixture of snow, sand and debris may smother aquatic life in the bottom of streams and rivers and degrade the aesthetics of the surface water with silt plumes and litter. Large quantities of snow (and the sand and debris) may also cause blockage of storm drainage systems, resulting in increased chance for localized flooding.

**Recommended Management Practice:** Snow accumulations removed from roadways, bridges, and parking lots should be placed in upland areas only, where sand and other debris will remain after snowmelt for later removal. Care must be exercised not to deposit snow in the following areas:

- freshwater or tidal wetlands or in areas immediately adjacent to such areas where sand and debris may be flushed during rainstorms;
- on top of storm drain catch basins;
- in storm drainage swales;
- on stream or river banks which slope toward the water, where sand and debris can get into the watercourse; and,
- in areas immediately adjacent (within at least 100 feet) of private or public drinking water well supplies (due to the possible presence of road salt).

**Implementation:** The Department recognizes that there is a considerable need for flexibility in implementation of this policy. There is no intent to interfere with snow plowing operations. Where trucking and snow dumping operations are undertaken the Department recommends these guidelines be followed.

**Information:** For further information please call the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse at (860) 424-3020.

## **Town of Waterford**

### **Public Works Department**

#### **SNOW REMOVAL: FACTS AND TIPS**

Street safety is the Town of Waterford Public Works Department's primary concern during the winter months. Public Works treats the pavement and removes snow whenever road conditions call for these services. Residents should remember that all snow removal operations are performed under emergency conditions. Our drivers work extended hours to ensure safe and effective snow removal. Please help the Public Works Department by following the Snow Emergency Tips and Reminders listed below: The Town of Waterford has 121 road miles to maintain. Each road requires at least four passes of the plow, adding up to more than 484 travel miles to plow. Public Works is also responsible for clearing the Fire Stations and the ring roads of the Schools. Roads within Town are prioritized and treated and plowed in the following order:

1. Primary Town roads
2. Secondary Town roads
3. Town subdivision roads
4. Cul-de-sacs

There are several State controlled roads in Town. Any road that has a route number is a State controlled road. (Routes 1, 85, 156, 213)

Please remember that Public Works is not responsible for removing the wind row created by plowing past your driveway.

Please move all vehicles off of the streets or cul-de-sacs during all snow storms that have the possibility of producing at least 3 inches of snow.

The Town of Waterford is not responsible for the snow that accumulates around your mailbox. It is the homeowners' responsibility to remove the accumulated snow from their mailbox.

Please place your garbage and recycling roll out containers beyond the edge of pavement or curb and NOT in the street. Objects in the street are the biggest deterrent to efficient plowing operations.

Remove all basketball backboards from the Town right of way.

Never pass a snowplow or salt truck.

Never assume the snowplow drivers can see you. Stay at least three (3) car lengths behind the truck. If you cannot see the driver in his mirrors then he cannot see you either.

If you use a snow blower to clear your driveway, do not blow the snow into the street.

If you, or your contractor, use a snow plow to clear your driveway, do not push the snow into or across the road.



# OLR RESEARCH REPORT

February 15, 2005

## STATE LAW ON SNOW REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS

By: Kevin E. McCarthy, Principal Analyst

2005-R-0148

You asked whether there are any state laws or regulations regarding property owners removing snow from sidewalks. You were specifically interested in learning whether there are any laws on the amount of time after a storm ends that a property owner has to clear his sidewalks or how wide a path he must clear.

There is relatively little state law on this subject. Under CGS Sec. 7-148 municipalities may adopt ordinances requiring property owners to remove snow and ice on their sidewalks and establish penalties for failing to do so. In addition, under CGS Sec. 7-163a, municipalities may adopt ordinances transferring their liability for damages associated with snow and ice on sidewalks to the abutting property owner. It appears that many municipalities have adopted one or both types of ordinances. However, in the absence of such ordinances, a homeowner is ordinarily not responsible for keeping the sidewalk in front of his house in reasonably safe condition for public travel, although he may be sued, he creates a nuisance *Tenney v. Pleasant Real Estate*, 136 Conn. 325 (1949).

Neither the statutes nor regulations specify how soon after the snow stops a homeowner must clear his sidewalk. However, there are several court cases that address the issue with regard to municipalities that have not transferred snow shoveling responsibilities and associated liability to property owners. For example, in *Cusick v. City of New Haven*, 148 Conn. 548 (1961), the state Supreme Court found that the city was not liable when a pedestrian fell at 6:45 in the morning following a nighttime ice storm, because it did not have enough time to become aware of the dangerous condition and remedy it. To be liable, the municipality or individual responsible for maintaining the sidewalk must either know that there is a hazardous condition or be in a position where it or he ought to have known. For example, in *Schroeder v. City of Hartford* 104 Conn. 334 (1926), the fact that sidewalks had been icy for five days was sufficient to give the city adequate notice of the hazardous conditions.

State law also does not prescribe how wide a path a homeowner must clear on his sidewalk. However, before the law was amended to allow municipalities to transfer liability for snow and ice accidents to property owners, the courts have found that the municipalities had to take reasonable care to make sure that sidewalks are reasonably safe. Under CGS Sec. 7-163a, if a municipality transfers liability to the property owners, they have the same duty of care as the municipality previously had.

## IMPROVING WINTER HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:

### CASE STUDIES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CONSIDERATION CASE STUDY: EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

#### VII: CASE STUDY: EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

The Town of East Hartford, Connecticut, which is close to the center of the state (Figure 4) maintains approximately 300 lane miles over an area of only 18 square miles. The population of this town is approximately 50,000 people. The town sits approximately 60 feet above sea level in the Connecticut River Valley. The study research team interviewed Billy Taylor, East Hartford's director of public works, via telephone. East Hartford contracts out about 15-20% of its winter

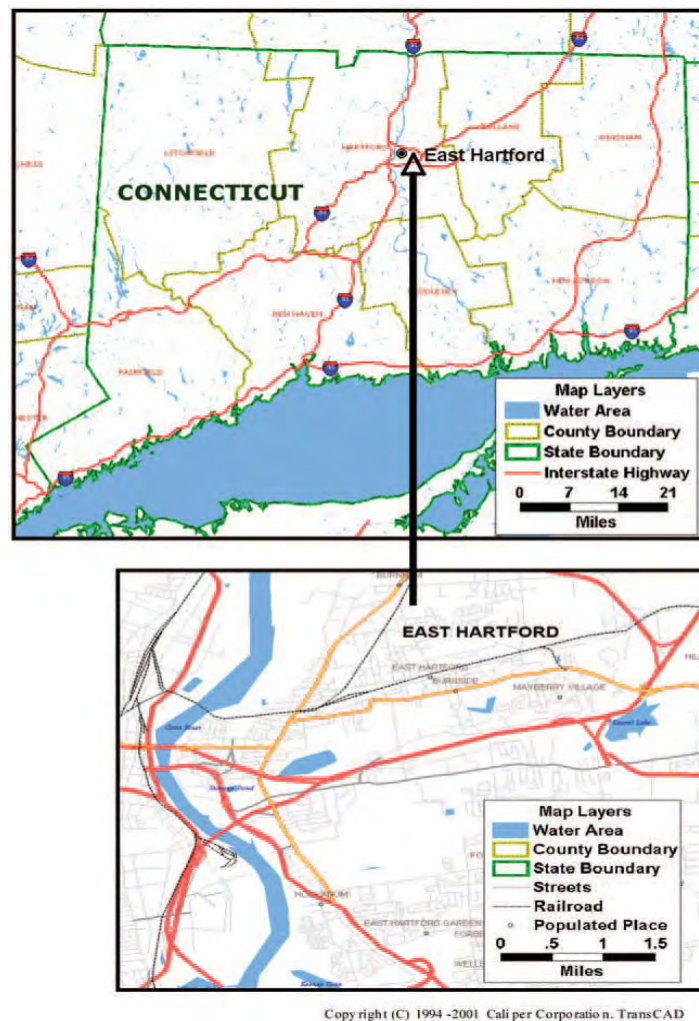


Figure 4: Location of East Hartford, Connecticut

## CASE STUDY: EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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maintenance to private companies. This occurs only during the larger storm events. For smaller storms and winter events, the work is undertaken internally by the town's crews and equipment.

East Hartford utilizes weather forecasts and simple observation as well as a weather forecasting service to send alerts via facsimile or telephone to trigger maintenance action for a winter storm or weather event.

East Hartford began reducing sand use in the winter of 2001–2002 and has since eliminated all use of sand. This change was motivated by the determination that other chemicals and materials could achieve a higher level of service and do so more effectively than sand. In addition to reduced application costs of using only salt, the elimination of sand reduced spring clean-up costs considerably. Proactive anti-icing was the only alternative measure considered during this period. No products or equipment were field tested for anti-icing. The decision to utilize anti-icing technology and eliminate sand use was based solely on an extensive review of literature. East Hartford currently uses approximately 4,000 tons of salt per year, depending on the severity of the winter. East Hartford also uses a commercial freezing point depressant chemical for anti-icing and pre-wetting of salt during winter storm events when temperatures are generally expected to be lower than freezing throughout a storm, but uses straight salt when the temperatures are generally projected to be around freezing. The town does not make or use salt brine.

When East Hartford public works officials informed the mayor's office of their interest in switching from the use of abrasives, they encountered no opposition. However, the Department of Public Works' maintenance staff did express reluctance at the idea of anti-icing alone, without the use of sand. After the first storm, the crews were convinced that the sand was not necessary for winter ice and snow control. The crews were not trained extensively in the new approach; however, they take a day each fall to calibrate the spreaders and watch training videos. The public was only notified of the new winter maintenance practices and elimination of sand via a written narrative on the town's website. Complaints from road users dropped off tremendously after the changes were implemented, and in fact the town now gets compliments on how efficiently their department takes care of the roads during winter months.

No comprehensive formal evaluation of the East Hartford program has been undertaken. The finding that improvement was achieved was reached simply by visual observation that the new methods worked better and that road surfaces were clearer. The greatest savings, although not quantified, are believed to be due to the reduction in the cost and effort of spring sand clean-up. The department is considering future changes including an upgrade of its equipment fleet and the use of salt brine for anti-icing.

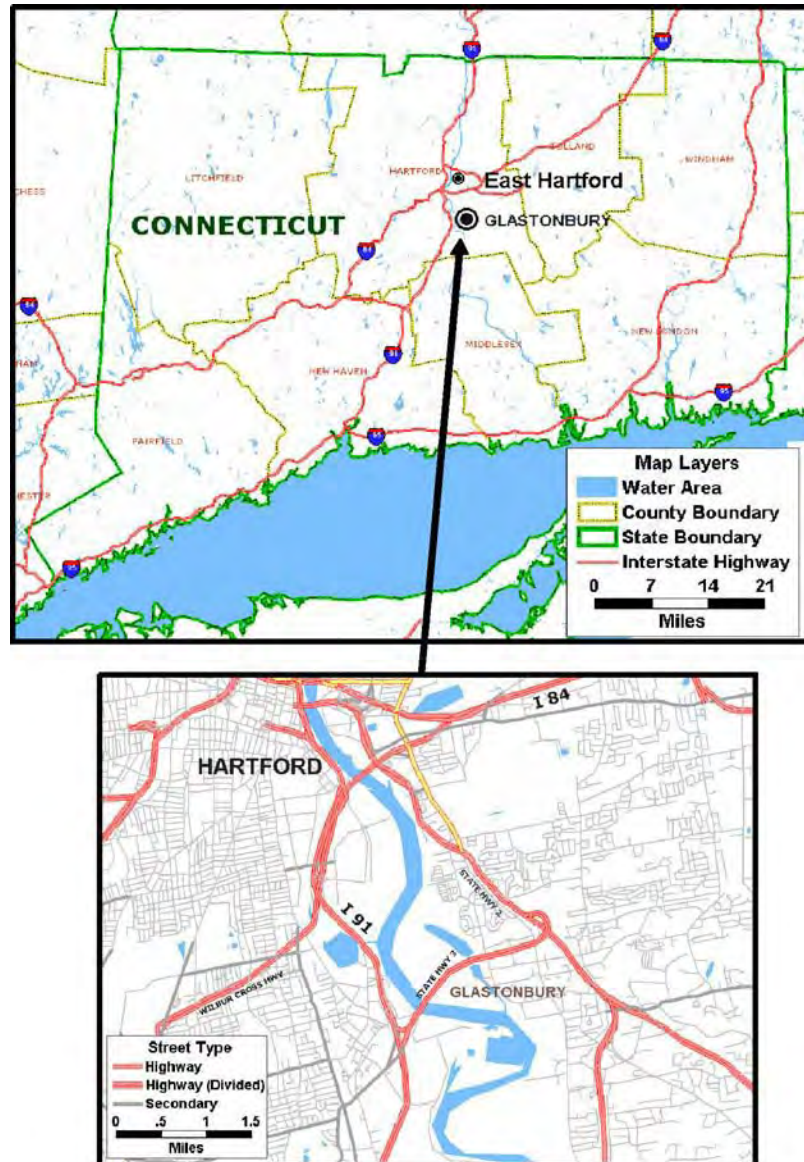


Eliminating sand from the winter maintenance system has brought clearer road surfaces to East Hartford. Public and crew opposition was not significant. Minimal educational effort was used for both the public and public works crews. The changes have resulted in reduced costs. This case study is important because it illustrates that change is feasible within the public policy and public opinion atmosphere of Connecticut. Furthermore, new winter maintenance techniques and change have the potential to be accepted at both the state and local levels.

Source: [http://www.ctcase.org/reports/Winter\\_Highway.pdf](http://www.ctcase.org/reports/Winter_Highway.pdf)

## VIII: Case study: Glastonbury Connecticut

The information in this case study was provided Eric Hood, physical services operations manager of the town of Glastonbury, Connecticut. The town is approximately 53 square miles and the agency maintains 220 miles of roadway (Figure 5). Glastonbury switched to use of ClearLane®, which is a manufactured blend of liquid magnesium chloride, a patented corrosion inhibitor and a green dye, for the 2005-2006 winter season. The product is applied as much as two hours before a storm's arrival. Plowing is not undertaken until approximately 6 inches of snow have accumulated. Because the liquid material prevents bonding between the asphalt and the snow/ice, the crews have noticed easier clean-ups.



*Figure 5: Location of Glastonbury, Connecticut*

**CASE STUDY:  
GLASTONBURY,  
CONNECTICUT**

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The town was motivated by a desire to reduce road sand to as close to zero as possible in order to reduce catch basin clean-up and sweeping in the spring. This sweeping work had been conducted by two town-owned sweepers, as well as two sweepers provided by an outside contractor for a two-week period. They expect to eliminate the need for the contracted sweepers due to the change material usage. The town wanted to stop having their operators chasing the snow, but instead be ahead of it to improve both the operators' safety and the safety of the motoring public. The town hoped to eliminate the use of liquid calcium chloride and to use less total material to maintain the roads on the theory that less material would result in less fuel usage. While less ClearLane® material is required, it costs more per ton than either sand or salt.

Initially there was concern that if residents did not see sand, they would be concerned, or that the green dye in the product would alarm them. Instead the town has received compliments on how good the roads have been following a winter storm/event. The town hosted a "Winter Operations Round-up" event to discuss use of the material with their crews. The crew support was very positive.

Finally, changes in management procedures that reduce material use will save money. The town of Glastonbury provided the following approximate current material costs: ClearLane® - 60.18/ton, sand - \$17/cubic yard, salt - \$49-54/ton and liquid calcium chloride - \$0.88/gallon.

Source: [http://www.ctcase.org/reports/Winter\\_Highway.pdf](http://www.ctcase.org/reports/Winter_Highway.pdf)

## CCM: THE STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND CITIES



The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities. CCM is an inclusionary organization that celebrates the commonalities between, and champions the interests of, urban, suburban and rural communities. CCM represents municipalities at the General Assembly, before the state executive branch and regulatory agencies, and in the courts. CCM provides member towns and cities with a wide array of other services, including management assistance, individualized inquiry service, assistance in municipal labor relations, technical assistance and training, policy development, research and analysis, publications, information programs, and service programs such as workers' compensation, liability-automobile-property insurance, risk management, and energy cost-containment. Federal representation is provided by CCM in conjunction with the National League of Cities. CCM was founded in 1966.

CCM is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by the member municipalities, with due consideration given to geographical representation, municipalities of different sizes, and a balance of political parties. Numerous committees of municipal officials participate in the development of CCM policy and programs. CCM has offices in New Haven (headquarters) and in Hartford.

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