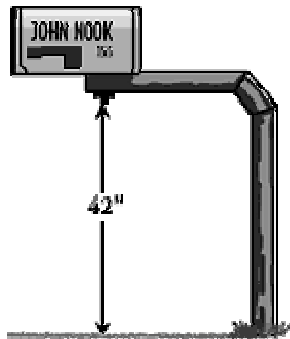


Things You Should Know

- Depositing snow in the roadway from your drive or walk is not only dangerous IT IS ILLEGAL, if you have a contractor plow your drive inform them not to push snow across the road.
- We are not in competition with surrounding towns to achieve the best roads. Each town has its own policy. We strive for the safest roads at reasonable costs in the shortest amount of time.
- The Plow Operators do not get a shift change. If the storm is of long duration the crew continues around the clock until the job is done, many times working all day and night and well into the next day with little or no rest.
- We communicate with Fire and Rescue and will plow ahead of emergency vehicles to ensure a timely response; if you have an emergency and your road has accumulated snow we will be there as soon as possible to clear the way.



Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Sheriff	774-1444
Fire Department (non emergency)	688-2211
Freeport P.D.	865-4800
State Police	1-800-482-0730
CMP	1-800-696-1000
Public Works	688-4407

POWNAI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

*Public Works in The Public
Interest*

WINTER OPERATIONS



publicworks@pownalmaine.org

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providing the safest possible roads as cost efficiently as possible.

One of the most important steps in dealing with winter storms is “pretreating” the roads. Pretreating is what you see when the trucks are on the road just prior to or at the start of the storm. These trucks are usually applying a light amount of salt and salt brine. Pretreating in this manner creates a brine barrier between the snow and the road keeping the snow from bonding to the surface and allowing us to achieve safe bare roads sooner. This process less costly than trying to melt off snow and ice pack after the storm.

Once the snow has started to accumulate the Department begins its plowing routine, this generally begins when there is 2-3 inches of snow on the roadway. We concentrate our efforts on our main roads, which in Pownal is nearly all of the paved roads. It is essential for the mobility of emergency vehicles as well as the public to keep the main roads as clear as possible. We continue plowing in this pattern for the duration of the storm making rounds on the secondary gravel roads as needed.

Once the storm subsides we begin our “cleanup” operation. This usually consists of a final salt treatment to break up any remaining snow or ice, cleaning up intersections, and then scraping the slush of the road. The sooner we clear the road of moisture the sooner it can dry which helps to mitigate dangerous refreezing.



Each storm is different and presents challenges that can be difficult to handle. Things such as temperature, time of day, traffic conditions, rate of snowfall and type of snow are just some of the factors affecting the impact of a storm. The amount of snowfall alone can be deceptive. For example a small storm during the weekday commute can cause major problems, while a similar storm on the weekend or late at night may cause little trouble. Light snow and heavy winds can cause additional drifting and ice build up. Heavy wet snow will bring down trees and power lines creating a different set of problems as well as additional equipment strain and breakdowns. Snow turning to rain may cause low lying areas to flood requiring immediate attention to mitigate further problems, in this situation gravel roads usually turn to glare ice which becomes very slow to treat (sand) in a safe manner. Pownal’s trained experienced crew works around the clock during these storms to keep roads open and passable for emergency vehicles as well as the general public. The crew is very dedicated and takes pride in plowing our roads in a safe professional manner

After the Storm

In the days after a storm the crew spends time pushing back snow banks and intersections. It is important to push these banks back as far as reasonable to make room for the next storm and keep sight lines open at intersections. Once these banks have thawed a little and re froze they are virtually impossible to move until they melt in the spring.

Once the roads are complete the crew begins the arduous task of steam cleaning all of the equipment used in the storm. Once cleaned they are brought through the shop and inspected with a fine tooth comb, serviced and repairs made in preparation for the next storm.

How You Can Help

- Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter driving; good snow or all season tires, new wiper blades, a good battery and an ice scraper and brush will add to your safety.
- Allow additional driving time to reach your destination. Being in a hurry will only complicate the already tough driving conditions and may end up being the cause of an accident.
- Reduce your speed during snow and icy conditions. 4x4 vehicles still have trouble on ice.
- Do not drive during winter storms unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Give plow trucks plenty of room to maneuver, these are extremely large wide vehicles, difficult to maneuver with impaired visibility, the road is no better in front of the plow.
- When clearing the end of your driveway clear the snow in the direction of the oncoming plow this will allow the plow to “unload” prior to your driveway instead of in your driveway (see diagram on next page).
- All of our Operators are urged to take precautions to avoid hitting mailboxes. However, experience has shown that reduced visibility during storms and many times on coming traffic make it impossible to avoid striking a mailbox. Any installation within the Town right of way including a mailbox, is placed there at the owners risk. Therefore, owners are encouraged to place them at the maximum useable distance from the edge of the road install them at a minimum of 42” high and put a reflector on the post (see diagram on next page).
- If possible wait until the road has been plowed before cleaning out the end of your driveway, there is no practical way to plow the road without depositing the snow into the end of your driveway,