



TOWNSHIP OF ESSA - Public Works Department
WINTER OPERATIONS - QUALITY STANDARDS
WINTER SANDING OPERATIONS

OBJECTIVES/GUIDELINES:

The foremost objectives/guidelines are:

- To meet the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways under Ontario Regulation 239/02, as made under the Municipal Act.

The objectives/guidelines for winter snow plowing operations are:

- To reduce the hazards of icy road conditions to motorists at hills, curves, intersections and railway crossings.
- To maintain safe passable routes within the financial limits of the municipality's budget.

SUMMARY OF QUALITY STANDARDS/LEVEL OF SERVICE:

The level of service for winter sanding operations shall be in accordance with the following:

Category I

This objective will generally apply to roads with an annual average daily traffic volume in excess of 1,000 v.p.d. or as highlighted on the attached route maps. Once the snow plowing operations have been completed, the objective is to provide a sanded surface on a continual basis to these roads within a maximum of 3 hours from the start of the sanding operations.

Category II

This objective will generally apply to roads with a winter average daily traffic volume less than 1,000 v.p.d. or as highlighted on the attached route maps. Once the snow plowing operations have been completed, the objective of treatment is to provide a sanded surface to the hills, curves, intersections, and railway crossings on these roads within a maximum of 12 hours from the start of sanding operations. They will only be sanded continuously during a freezing rain or sleet storm, or when the roads become extremely slippery. Graders should scrape the surface of gravel roads only by means of ice blades to reduce the need for sand on these roads during freezing rain and sleet storm events.

GENERAL

The Township of Essa does not operate a night time sanding shift of personnel. Except for patrol trucks, sanders will generally not operate between 8:00 p.m. and the route call-out time for the next day (normally **3:00 a.m., from Monday to Friday, and 5:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday**).

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Predetermined routes for plowing and sanding shall be followed except in extreme emergency or critical situations. It is understood that the quality of winter maintenance on any road is dependent on the following factors:

- air and ground temperature
- sunlight
- road surface
- traffic volumes
- wind speed and direction
- snow fall
- freezing rain and sleet

Due to these factors, there may be substantial variations in the level of service provided and the Manager of Public Works/Roads Supervisor shall have the authority to alter the plowing and sanding routes depending on the circumstances.

During severe weather conditions (ie. poor visibility) and when the Police are advising people to stay off the roads, the Roads Department may choose to withdraw sanding equipment off the roads. The Mayor and/or Chairperson of the Public Works Committee shall be notified prior to this decision being made.

SUMMARY

The Roads Department will attempt to provide the best winter maintenance efforts given the resources available and weather conditions. However, during certain hours and under certain weather conditions, roads may become snow covered and slippery. It is expected that motorists will use extra care in these situations and drive according to the road and weather conditions.

Revised: November, 2008