Winter Maintenance Operations

Understanding how winter maintenance priorities and response activities are determined.

Haldimand County delivers winter maintenance services in accordance with Provincial Municipal Maintenance Standards and the County's Level of Service Policy.

How the program works

Maintenance priorities, response times, and operational activities are based on road classifications, weather conditions, and public safety considerations.

1 Road Classification

Roads are classified from 1-6 based on traffic volumes and speed limits

Primary routes are established based on road class

2 Monitoring & Preparation

Winter season runs Nov 15-Apr 15

Staff monitor weather & road conditions 24/7

Pre-treatment may occur before forecasted weather events

3 Winter Response

Plowing & salting begin when Provincial thresholds are met

Higher-class roads receive priority response

Lower-class roads are serviced according to established response timelines

4 Post-Storm Operations

Road widening & snowbank removal

Intersection & sightline improvements

Drift & ice control

Equipment & material replenishment

Winter Road Priorities

Higher-Priority Routes	Lower-Priority Routes
Road Classes 1-3	Road Classes 4-6
Higher traffic volumes	Lower traffic volumes
Maintained by contractors	Maintained by County staff
24-hour response capability	Scheduled operator response
4-12 hour service targets	16-24 hour service targets

What is a Significant Weather Event?

A **Significant Weather Event (SWE)** may be declared when weather conditions create a significant risk to roadway users.

During SWE:

- Public notifications are issued
- Road and weather conditions are continuously monitored
- Winter maintenance operations are adjusted to respond to conditions
- The declaration remains in effect until conditions improve/event terminated

Not all roads are serviced at the same time. Winter maintenance activities are prioritized based on road classification, traffic volumes, public safety considerations, and Provincial maintenance standards.