

BASIC WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY

Crow Wing County *does not have a bare pavement policy*

for **Snow and Ice Control** but rather has a POLICY of:

1. **PLOWING** all road surfaces as completely as possible, and
2. **SANDING** at critical locations of intersections, curves, hills, railroad crossings, and other hazardous areas; with
3. Return **PLOWING** – that is for, widening as appropriate, scraping or cutting as necessary and additional sanding.

GOAL: It is the goal of the County Highway Department to maintain the County Highway System during winter months in as good a condition as possible under the above policy for reasonably safe winter driving. Bare pavement will exist much of the time but it is clearly expected that much of the time during the winter there will not be bare pavement in some locations. Plowing operations generally are accomplished during normal working hours of 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, however plowing does commence on a need basis prior to 7:00 AM. The best defense for driving during the winter months/snow season is to exercise due caution and to drive according to road conditions.

Information **NOTE:** The sand used by the County contains approximately ten percent (10%) rock salt or sodium chloride (NaCl) primarily for the purpose of keeping the sand from freezing in the stockpiles so it can be easily handled; this mixture, as an abrasive, provides for reasonable traction but has limited ability to melt compacted snow or ice in that rock salt is effective at temperatures above +10 degrees F. However, additional rock salt is added when appropriate.