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Arapahoe County publishes snow plow routes

Road and Bridge adds additional snow plow route for 2016/17 snow season

LITTLETON, CO --- Despite unseasonably warm temperatures winter is coming.

Arapahoe County Road and Bridge conducts snow removal operations every season on roads, bridges and other transportation assets within unincorporated areas of the County. There are 11 routes, including an additional route added for the 2016/17 snow season. Each route is broken into different priority roads, with priority given to major arterial streets, followed by collector streets.

"Arapahoe County is diverse in geography and we know snowfall can vary across the unincorporated areas," says Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who represents District 3, including a majority of the unincorporated County. "We're proud to provide safe roadways for our citizens year-round, particularly during the winter."

One of the main goals of winter maintenance is to achieve passable roadways within the limitations imposed by weather and availability of resources. A passable roadway is a roadway surface that is free from drifts, snow ridges and as much ice and snow pack as practical and can be traveled safely at reasonable speeds, which will likely be lower than the posted speed limit during and after a winter event. Passable roadways should not be confused with dry or bare pavement, which may not exist until weather conditions improve.

During a normal snow event, the goal is to have all primary roadways passable in the drive lanes during the first 24 hours of a storm and all primary and secondary roadways passable within 24 hours following the storm. Exceptions can occur dependent on factors such as roadway temperature, concurrent snow storms, severe storms or availability of resources.

In order to be fiscally responsible and maintain adequate resources, Arapahoe County Road and Bridge takes steps to ensure a snow deployment is necessary before calling out the plows.

They partner with meteorologists to receive constant monitoring and reports. Additionally, snow patrollers drive small routes in pickup trucks to assess conditions, relaying weather and roadway information to managers to determine scope of deployment needed. Crews work in 12 hour shifts, with two team members to a plow and a supervisor on duty throughout the shift. Arapahoe County's snow removal equipment includes 19 plows, four loaders, six graders and multiple trucks and sanders. The County uses Ice Slicer and salt to increase traction and mitigate ice.

Road and Bridge does not plow residential streets or driveways. Property owners should shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours of the last accumulation and cannot place snow from private property onto the county streets or roadways.

Arapahoe County's snow plan and plow routes can be reviewed at www.arapahoe.gov/snow. Service requests can be submitted at this link or by calling 720-874-6820.

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