



## Winter Maintenance Information

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The Buhl Highway District's goal is to provide snow and ice removal in a safe, timely, and cost-efficient manner to the citizens of Buhl and Castleford. The Buhl Highway District maintains approximately 534 lane miles of roadway from 1850 East to 600 East and 3300 North to 4800 North.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **Q: When is the sanders-deicing equipment sent out, and what do they apply to the road?**

- A. Sanders are dispatched when and where icy and traffic conditions warrant it. The Buhl Highway District uses a sand and salt mixture and noncorrosive liquid for deicing.

#### **Q: How much snow has to be on the roads before the plows are dispatched?**

- A. Plows will be dispatched when three (3) or more inches of snow has fallen or when drifting has occurred during the standard work week and four (4) to six (6) inches on recognized holidays and/or weekends.

Most Roads in the Buhl Highway District are 23 feet wide or narrower and have little shoulder area. If a plow is off the road and stuck, it is no good to the Highway District or to the traveling public. In extreme situations, we may begin plowing as early as 4:00 a.m. and have plowed as late as 2:00 a.m.

#### **Q: Why does it take so long to get my road plowed?**

- A. Buhl Highway District maintains 534 lane miles of roadway or over 76 miles for each employee to plow. Employees begin their plow route at our shop and work their areas out to the furthest roads. Those living the furthest out will be plowed out last unless an emergency arises.

#### **Q: Who else plows roads in the Buhl Highway District?**

- A. The Idaho Transportation Department maintains State Highway 30 and State Highway 46. The cities of Buhl and Castleford are responsible for the streets within their municipalities.

#### **Q: Why do the snowplows block my driveway and mailbox with snow, and who is responsible for cleaning it out?**

- A. The primary goal of plowing is to remove snow from the road so that the roads are open to vehicular traffic. The plowing process pushes snow from the center of the road to the shoulder, and unfortunately, this results in snow piling up in front of driveways and mailboxes. The plow drivers cannot angle the plow the other way or lift the plow at each driveway and mailbox, as this would leave large and dangerous piles of snow in the roadway. Residents are advised to wait until the plow has been through their road prior to cleaning out their driveway and mailbox area. At times, the plow driver may have to make multiple passes to widen the roadway or if drifting or more snow occurs. Plow drivers do

not intentionally block your driveway or mailbox, and we apologize for this inconvenience. Please remember that clearing driveways and mailboxes is the resident's responsibility.

**Q: The snowplow damaged my mailbox. Whose responsibility is it to fix it?**

- A. Occasionally, mailboxes are damaged by snow plowing operations. The damage is not deliberate and, most of the time is unavoidable due to poor visibility, the mailbox being buried in a snowbank, or the weight/volume of the snow being plowed. Buhl Highway District Standards and Developmental Procedures require mailboxes to be erected at a minimum of eight (8) feet from the edge of the paved surface for paved roads or eight (8) feet from the edge of the traveled surface for gravel roads. The Buhl Highway District is not responsible for damage and does not repair, replace, or re-erect mailboxes that do not meet the eight (8) foot requirement. If your mailbox placement meets or exceeds this requirement, the Highway District will repair/replace the mailbox when the snowstorm or drifting event has passed and time allows. The Buhl Highway District will not repair/replace decorative, ornamental, or brick-type construction. The Buhl Highway District uses a standard 4 x 4 post and a standard mailbox.

**Q: What proactive measures does the Highway District take regarding snow removal?**

- A. The Buhl Highway District constantly monitors current weather conditions and forecasts from both local forecasters and several internet sites.

**Q: What if my vehicle becomes stuck in the roadway?**

- A. If possible, get help to remove the stuck vehicle as soon as possible. If the vehicle is left abandoned in the roadway, it becomes a safety hazard, and the sheriff's department will have it towed away at the owner's expense.

**Q. How can I (the public) help?**

1. **SLOW DOWN** and **DRIVE SAFELY**. When driving on snow and ice-covered roadways, especially when approaching snowplow equipment, the operator may not be able to see you if you are too close.
2. **BE PATIENT**. Snow removal takes time, and abandoned vehicles make the process longer.
3. Try to maintain at least a week's supply of food, water, and heating fuel on hand, as extreme weather conditions have made this necessary in the past.

**DO NOT**

1. Push snow out into the Highway District right-of-way or along the edge of the roadway.
2. Build or place fences in the right-of-way; they could be damaged by the snow plowing equipment or by the force of the snow being plowed.
3. Place your mailbox within eight (8) feet of the running edge of the roadway. Mailboxes are an encroachment in the right-of-way and will be treated as such.