

CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
ROADS & TRAFFIC DIVISION
POLICY

SUBJECT: Roadside Snow Fence

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the use of roadside snow fences. The objective is to ensure roads locations that are prone to drifting snow are effectively addressed as part of the City's Winter Control Program.

2. Definitions

"City" means the City of Hamilton.

"City Property Line" means a road allowance, park, cemetery, open space or any property owned or managed by the City.

"Living Snow Fence" means a line of hedges, shrubs, trees, or other standing vegetative materials for the purposes of blocking snow drifts.

"Snow Fence" means a line of posts, steel t-bars with wooden slats or plastic webbing, or other similar device for the purposes of blocking snow drifts.

"Winter Control Program" means the services provided to ensure the City's roadways are maintained in a safe condition during the winter season.

3. Background

The Public Works Department is responsible for roads operations including winter maintenance operations. This policy outlines the activities the City shall use to mitigate drifting snow onto City roadways.

The City will provide the necessary training and follow up with its winter maintenance personnel to allow them to be fully contributing partners in achieving an effective and safe winter maintenance program.

The City will operate in accordance with clearly stated and documented winter control level of service policies.

4. Policy

4.1 Snow Fences

The City will limit the use of snow fenced to locations where it offers optimum reduction of drifting snow onto neighbouring roadways at a reasonable cost in comparison to other snow clearing techniques.

Snow fencing used by the City include standard wood posts and/or plastic webbed fencing.

Pursuant to the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, c. 25, s. 60, the City is authorized, at any reasonable time, to enter onto City Property, and land within the municipality or within an adjoining municipality, and lying along any highway under its jurisdiction, including land owned by Her Majesty in right of Ontario, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a snow fence.

4.2 Winter Patrol

Winter patrol operations will monitor roadway conditions throughout the winter season.

The patrol operations will track the locations that may be prone to snow drifts. Information on these locations will be recorded in the standard patrol logs.

Staff will dispatch winter control equipment to remove snow that may have accumulated on roadways resulting from drifting snow.

4.3 Snow Plowing

Snow plowing will be activated based on the winter road patrol observations in order to clear any snow drifts from roadways.

The City will optimize the use of winter control equipment by efficient routing in accordance with the City's winter control level of service.

4.4 Alternative Technologies

The City will evaluate technologies that may be used to improve efficiencies of the City winter maintenance activities. New best practices will be reviewed and implemented on a case-by-case basis.

COUNCIL APPROVAL: June 29, 2011
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