



DECLARATION OF SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT POLICY

DEPARTMENT	OPERATIONS	POLICY NUMBER	004-21
EFFECTIVE DATE	December 13, 2021	LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY	Section 4.1 of O-Reg 239/02 under the Municipal Act, 2001
APPROVED BY:	By-law 119-21		

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a protocol for the Declaration of a “Significant Weather Event” as defined in the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (the “Maintenance Standards”) from Ontario Regulation 239/02 under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25. Declaring a Significant Weather Event deems all roadways, or the portion of the road network impacted by the Significant Weather Event, in the Township of Wellington North (the Township) in a state of repair with respect to snow accumulation and/or ice conditions such that it may take longer for the Operations Department to achieve the Maintenance Standards. The Township will maintain the roadways as per the levels of service identified in the Maintenance Standards with respect to snow accumulation and/or ice conditions once the Significant Weather Event has ended.

Definitions

“Significant Weather Event” - *means an approaching or occurring weather hazard with the potential to pose a significant danger to users of the highways within a municipality.*

“Weather Hazard” - *means the weather hazards determined by Environment Canada as meeting the criteria for the issuance of an alert under its Public Weather Alerting Program.*

Authority

Section 4.1 of Ontario Regulation 239/02 under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001 c. 25, provides the authority for the Township to declare a Significant Weather Event. A Significant Weather Event may be declared at the discretion of the Director of Operations or designate.

Policy Statement

Public safety is the utmost importance to Council and staff of the Township and for various reasons, it may be necessary to declare a Significant Weather Event to assist the Township in meeting its obligations under the Minimum Maintenance Standards.

Procedures for the Significant Weather Event

A Significant Weather Event may be declared by authorized Staff in response to an alert issued by Environment Canada under its Public Weather Alerting Program for an approaching or occurring weather hazard or in response to one of the following conditions:

- Significant snow accumulation on roadways during a twenty-four (24) hour period
- Ice formations on roadways that occurs with little or no warning
- Extreme cold temperature when de-icing operations will not be effective
- Declaration of a Significant Weather Event by the County of Wellington

A Significant Weather Event may otherwise be declared as a result of any other factor deemed relevant by Authorized Staff.

If a Significant Weather Event is declared, the Township will continue to monitor the weather and will declare the end of the Significant Weather Event as soon as practicable after the relevant weather conditions have ceased.

The Declaration of the beginning of a Significant Weather Event shall be made public through one or more of the following:

- By posting a notice on the Township's Website
- By making an announcement on Facebook, Twitter or other social media platform
- By sending a press release or similar communication to internet, newspaper, radio or television media
- Notification of Police and Emergency Services

Snow Accumulation - Roadways

If a Significant Weather Event is declared relating to snow accumulation, the standard for addressing snow accumulation on roadways until the declaration of the end of the Significant Weather Event is:

- To monitor the weather in accordance with the Maintenance Standards; and
- If deemed practicable by Authorized Staff, to deploy resources to address snow accumulation on roadways, starting from the time that the Authorized Staff deems it appropriate to do so.

If a Significant Weather Event is declared, all roadways or the portion of the road network impacted by the Significant Weather Event within the Township are deemed to be in a state of repair with respect to snow accumulation, until the applicable time has passed per Ontario's Minimum Maintenance Standards following the declaration of the end of the significant weather event.

Following the end of the weather hazard in respect of which a Significant Weather Event was declared, the

Authorized Staff shall,

- Declare the end of the Significant Weather Event when it is appropriate to do so, and
- Address snow accumulation on roadways in accordance with the Maintenance Standards

Ice Conditions - Roadways

If a Significant Weather Event is declared relating to ice conditions, the standard for addressing ice conditions on roadways until the declaration of the end of the Significant Weather Event is:

- To monitor the weather in accordance with the Minimum Maintenance Standards; and
- If deemed practicable by Authorized Staff, to deploy resources to address ice conditions on roadways, starting from the time that the Authorized Staff deems it appropriate to do so.

If a Significant Weather Event is declared, all roadways or the portion of the road network impacted by the Significant Weather Event within the Township are deemed to be in a state of repair with respect to ice conditions until the applicable time in Ontario's Minimum Maintenance Standards following the declaration of the end of the significant weather event.

Following the end of the weather hazard in respect of which a Significant Weather Event was declared, the Authorized Staff shall,

- Declare the end of the Significant Weather Event when it is appropriate to do so, and
- Address snow accumulation on roadways in accordance with the Minimum Maintenance Standards