

Road & Bridge Department
73 Sunrise Rd
P. O. Box 1418
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805



Telephone: (208) 267-3838

December 1, 2025

Good day Boundary County drivers – The Late summer weather we enjoyed again this year has moved on and the fresh white dusting in the mountains above reminds us that winter is right around the corner. The Boundary County Road and Bridge Department hopes that you are ready for the driving conditions that this time of year brings. We would like to take a moment and remind everyone of several important factors to ensure that everyone makes it home safely to their families every day.

While winter tires are not necessarily required, they are a good idea since Boundary County roads are not maintained 24 hours a day. We will have crews out 7 days a week for plowing and sanding but there are over 355 one-way miles of county roads to maintain, and roads are handled in a specific order noted below. Winter maintenance can take up a big portion of our time over the winter and comes at high maintenance costs.

Secondly, we would like to remind everyone of several important safety topics for both the traveling public and our maintenance personnel.

- Idaho Code **18-3906** prohibits placing snow or ice on any public road in a manner that impedes traffic or makes it unsafe. So please do not plow across our county roads. This is a misdemeanor punishable by fine up to \$2,500. Not to mention that the windrow left behind may freeze in place and can be difficult to remove. Also, Idaho Code **18-3907** prohibits obstructing any roadway or drainage that may damage a road.
- ***Roads are maintained by a priority standard.***
 - 1st Priority will be all bus routes, arterials and major collectors.
 - 2nd Priority will be minor collectors and all other county roads.
- In general roads will not be sanded during an active snow event. Sanding will occur after roads have been cleared of snow.
 - Please ensure to have proper tires and/or chains to help you navigate our winter driving conditions.
- Application of sand on roadways is generally limited to hills, some corners, intersections and other areas deemed hazardous by Boundary County Road and Bridge.
- We will continue to use rock salt and/or a brine mixture in some areas deemed hazardous by the Road and Bridge Department to help facilitate de-icing.
- There may be several inches of snow on the ground before snow plowing commences.
- It may take several days after a snow event to get everything cleaned up and several more days to get snow pushed back and roads widened. Please be patient.
- Take a good look at your mailboxes. If you can wiggle or move it, you may need to repair or replace the post. Snow and slush are heavy and may damage anything in the rights of way during snow removal operations. Damage to old posts will not be repaired or replaced by the Road and Bridge Department. This is the responsibility of the owner.

- We know that snow berms at the end of your driveway can be frustrating but please understand that this is largely unavoidable and our operators do not intentionally try to cause strife. The Road and Bridge Department is not responsible for clearing out the end of your driveway.

There are several ways the public can help us get the job done faster!

1. We know that snow is fun and that blinking lights and big equipment are cool but, please encourage children **not** to play in snow berms along the roads, or where snow gets pushed for road clearing.
2. Do not park along the roadways or in the county rights of way. Any vehicles parked along the roadway may be bermed in or towed. It will be the owner's responsibility to shovel it out if you are bermed in.
3. Remove everything from the county rights of way. This would include yard signs, decorations, temporary fences, garbage cans, or anything else that can be hit by our plows. Not only does this create a mess but it will be the owner's responsibility to clean up.
4. Slow down and move over for Road Maintenance Equipment. Follow at a safe distance to ensure no damage to your vehicle and that we can effectively clear the roads for you. Remember to please stay out of the equipment blind spots.

For further information please call the Boundary County Road and Bridge Department main office Monday – Thursday 7 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at 267-3838