



BIG BEAR LAKE CITY COUNCIL POLICY

BERM REDUCTION POLICY

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Number 2008-01

Approved by City Council: January 14, 2008

PURPOSE

This policy is intended to provide guidelines regarding berm reduction, a service provided as part of the City's Annual Winter Maintenance Programs.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the City of Big Bear Lake to define expectations of the berm reduction program for residents, property owners and staff, while maintaining the exceptional level of service the community has come to rely upon. In particular, reducing berms in driveway approaches aids the elderly, persons with disabilities, second-homeowners and visitors.

SCOPE OF POLICY

The City of Big Bear Lake offers snow removal and berm reduction services as part of its Annual Winter Maintenance Programs. During snowplow operations, emergency access is the first priority. Berm reduction services are provided only after all roads are designated to be accessible by emergency vehicles, residents and visitors.

The City of Big Bear Lake offers berm reduction services for City residents only. Commercial businesses are required to provide for their own service. The berm reduction program is not a berm elimination program. A berm is defined as a 'windrow of snow left over as the result of snow-plowing the street surface above and beyond the actual snow fall base'. Berm reduction is reducing the amount of snow left over in a driveway from snow-plowing operations. This is dependent on weather conditions and amount of snowfall.

In general, there are no berm reduction services provided when snowfall is between 0 – 3 inches in height. When 3 – 10 inches of snow has fallen, residents can expect a 50 – 80% reduction of their berm. When snowfall is between 10 – 16 inches, a minimum of 50% reduction will most likely occur. However, for snow levels of 16 inches or more, there may be no berm reduction services for up to 24-72 hours after snowfall stops.

Berm Reduction Policy

In order for residents to receive berm reduction service, driveway openings must be clearly marked with brightly painted orange snow poles (3/4 in. diameter). It is the responsibility of the resident or property owner to provide these. Only one driveway entrance, per parcel, will receive this service. For a fee, snow poles are available for purchase at the Civic Center.

Reducing berms in driveway approaches aids full-time residents, the elderly, persons with disabilities, second-homeowners and visitors. This service aids second-homeowners or visitors who arrive in the middle of the night and encounter an ice berm in their driveway, making it difficult to enter. In most cases, a competent driver maneuvering a two-wheel drive vehicle equipped with tire chains should be capable of accessing a berm-reduced driveway approach.

There are 60 non-maintained roads in the City of Big Bear Lake. Non-maintained roads range from a trail to a one-lane dirt road. There is no significant berm reduction performed on these roads. Public Works staff responds to snow related service requests on non-maintained roads only after all maintained roads are complete. Public Works limits use of heavy equipment on dirt roads during snow events to prevent damage that may occur.

REVIEW AUTHORITY

The City Council may revise or amend this policy as needed in order to meet the changing needs of the community.

AUTHORIZATION

As part of the City's Annual Winter Maintenance Programs, the City Manager, and/or his designee, shall have the authority to implement berm reduction services and modify implementation as environmental conditions dictate.