

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Board of Commissioners

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PRESS RELEASE

Contact Person: R. Lamont Pagenhardt
County Administrator

Date: December 31, 2012

Re: Garrett County Roads Department Responsibilities

The Garrett County Roads Department is responsible for the maintenance of 680 miles of public roadways. The maintenance includes snow removal and abrasive treatment; paving; drainage and culvert upkeep; entrance permit safety assurance; and other improvements and upgrades.

Every year during the month of October the County conducts a winter operations meeting to allow representatives from offices of public safety, law enforcement, public education, and public works to review prior year operations and to include suggestions and recommendations for improvement to be reviewed and implemented if needed. Residents and visitors should be confident that every employee with the County Roads Department is dedicated and committed to the safety of all public roads under the jurisdiction of County Government. The County Roads Department realizes that many persons who use County roadways may get discouraged and frustrated when a certain road is not plowed or treated at a certain time that their travel may be essential.

The Roads Department has 3 area garages that personnel are dispatched from and the treatment of roadways within that area is attended to from that garage location first. It is not conceivable to have all roads totally plowed at the same time. During days when the public schools are open personnel are directed to those roads first to allow the transportation of students to school at the start of the day. Residents and visitors may see a different time that a particular road is plowed on weekends and when schools may be closed. Road crews assigned to snow removal must return to their respective garage to reload abrasives, refuel, or possibly have maintenance on the equipment being used. It must be considered that 680 miles of County roads equates to 1,360 miles that must be maintained during winter operations which equal to driving distance from New York City to Miami, Florida. Monty Pagenhardt, County Administrator and Jay Moyer, General Roads Superintendent stated that "we are very proud of our employees who work whatever hours are required to assure that County roads are safe for travel during the winter months. The Board of County Commissioners certainly shares this opinion."

Safety tips and travel notices for residents and visitors who require travel on County roads is posted on the Garrett County Government Facebook page. Questions may also be directed to the County Roads Department Administrative Office at 301.334.7488. Inquiries to the 911 Center should only be made in the event of an emergency. The Department asks that everyone be patient and understand that snow removal crews are assigned to assure of safe travel on all County roadways.