Winter Maintenance
Roadway Priorities

The Berrien County Road Department prioritizes snow and ice removal operations to make the roads safe and accessible during snowfall.

• Priority 1 – Primary Roads (County Roads)
• Priority 2 – Secondary Roads
• Priority 3 – Residential streets / Subdivisions*
  • *May take up to two days to get to. Depending on the snowfall.
  • Private Roads – The County will **NOT** operate snow removal equipment on private roads
Standard Winter Service Hours

• Dayshift
  • 7:00am – 3:30pm
    • 4 Foreman, 45 Operators, 45 Routes, with 50 Trucks Available
      • The Shop also has 1 Shop Foreman and 4 Mechanics.

• Nightshift
  • 6:00pm – 2:30am
    • 1 Foreman, 4 Operators, 4 Routes, with 50 Trucks Available
Snow Predicted AFTER 6pm

- Nightshift will blade, sand and salt their routes.
  - Priority 1 Routes Only.
- Crew will also respond to any emergency calls from 911.
- Dayshift put on notice to be on stand by
  - Possible 4:00am start for next day.
- All trucks will be prepped
  - Fueled
  - Loaded with sand/salt mixture.
If Snowing and Slick

- Night Foreman will contact the Superintendent
  - Decision will be made to call dayshift in early at 4:00am.

- Dayshift will run their routes in the following order:
  - First: Priority 1 – Primary Roads (County Roads)
  - Second: Priority 2 – Secondary Roads
  - Third: Priority 3 – Residential streets/Subdivisions
    - Private Roads – The County will **NOT** operate snow removal equipment on private roads
If Snowing/Slick Continued...

- BCRD will re-run primaries as needed.
  - Priority 1 Routes might require **repeated** service.
  - Not all Priority 3 routes will be serviced immediately.

- Dayshift will work until 4:30pm *(if needed).*

- If snow is still predicted or the BCRD did not get to service the entire system:
  - Dayshift will prepare for a 4:00am start.
  - Roads not serviced previous day will have priority AFTER Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes are safe.

- Nightshift will start at 4:30pm to cover the rest of day and begin their night shift. Nights will stay on until day shift starts at 4:00am.
Snow Policy

• Berrien County does **not** have a bare pavement or bare road policy and roads may not be 100% free of snow or ice.
  • Always drive to the conditions of the road, or during a snow event please avoid being on the roads unless absolutely necessary.

• Snow and ice removal may be limited, depending on current weather conditions.

• Sanding/salting of the roads will be done at critical intersections, hills, and curves.
Snow Policy Continued...

• All Priority 3 are plowed after Priority 1 and Priority 2 are completed.
  • If more snow fall occurs crews will be pulled back onto Priority 1 routes until they are deemed clear and safe.

• During a Snow Event the BCRD runs 24 hour coverage
  • Process will be repeated until deemed safe to cut back hours.
    • Dayshift is a full crew
    • Nightshift primarily services emergency calls or Priority 1 Routes.

• Main objective is to keep the roadways passable.
  • At the end of the storm, the plows will begin to clean snow off the shoulders of the roadway.
  • Residents may want to wait until the roads have been widened before clearing the entrance of their driveways.
Weekend Snow Events

• Full crew reports: 5am – 10am
  (shift hours dependent on weather occurrence)
  • Servicing Primaries and Locals
    • Not subdivisions
  • Weekend Snow Event/Removal Approximate Cost:

$60,000
Mailbox Policy

• The county does **not** repair or replace mailboxes damaged by snow and ice removal practices.
• Damage is typically from heavy snow, not from road equipment contact.
• Plastic mailboxes do become more fragile in cooler temperatures.
• Posts weaken and structurally deteriorate over time and do require maintenance and/or replacement by the property owner.
Winter Driving Tips

• **Give plows/trucks room to maneuver.**
  - When applying salt and plowing snow our equipment may need to change lanes, back up and make more frequent stops. Please stay back from plows operating on our roadways.

• **Stay BACK at Intersections!**
  - Do NOT pull out into the intersection when snowplow trucks are approaching.
  - Snow plow drivers are unable to control the snow coming off the plow blades. Snow coming from the road will often contain rocks and any other debris from the roadway.

• **Do NOT pass trucks when salt is being applied or snow is being plowed.**
  - Remember the best road conditions will be the ones BEHIND the plow. Road conditions in front of the plow have not been groomed by the equipment in front of you.
Winter Tips

• Do NOT Park on the Street!
  • Move your vehicles out of the streets and cul-de-sac roads, and park in driveways when accumulating snow is predicted.

• Do NOT shovel snow into the street!
  • Please keep snow from your property on your property. Do not push or put snow across the road or into the road. Snow placed across our roadways is a huge safety hazard for all drivers on that road.

• Keep Children Away from the Street.
  • Children should never be allowed to play near the street in snow piles. Snow banks make it nearly impossible for drivers to spot children.
Community Tips

- **Assist in Drainage**
  - If there is drainage or catch basins in front of your property, keep ice, snow, and other debris away from opening so that water from melting ice can drain more freely.

- **Dig out Fire Hydrants**
  - If there is a fire hydrant in front of your property please help by clearing snow from the areas surrounding the hydrant. In the event of a fire emergency, this could help save a life by aiding the fire department in locating hydrants quickly.
2019 Social Media Growth

- **Facebook**
  - January 1, 2019 – 7,875 Followers
  - January 1, 2020 – 9,751 Followers
  
- **Twitter**
  - January 1, 2019 – 78 Followers
  - January 1, 2020 – 250 Followers

- **Instagram**
  - January 1, 2019 – 291 Followers
  - January 1, 2020 – 665 Followers
2019 Logged Service Requests

All Service Requests Logged from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019
Construction Crew

Derek Renbarger, Foreman

• Construction Season
  • 2 Heavy Equipment Operators
    • Responsible for culvert replacements
    • Oversees sealcoating operations

• Winter Operations
  • Oversees Night Crew
    • 4 Medium Equipment Operators
Garage Locations & Service Areas
Baroda Garage

Milt Sluder, Foreman

- Built in 1959
- Main Garage 70’ x 120’
- Storage 40’ x 100’
- Salt storage 1,500 tons
- 13 Medium Equipment Operators
- District 44 Townships serviced:
  - St. Joseph (shared with Benton Harbor Garage)
  - Lincoln
  - Royalton
  - Lake
  - Baroda
  - Oronoko
  - Chikaming
  - Weesaw (shared with Bakertown Garage)
  - Buchanan (shared with Bakertown & Eau Claire Garages)
- Approximately servicing 450 miles of roads
Benton Harbor Garage / Administrative Office

Rob Cloinger, Foreman

- Built in 1972
- Main Garage 90’ x 300’
- Storage 36’ x 120’
- Salt storage 1,500 tons
- Maintenance Shop Building 80’ x 150’
- Office Building 116’ x 104’

**Benton Harbor Garage**

- 13 Medium Equipment Operators
- District 56 Townships serviced:
  - Hagar
  - Coloma
  - Watervliet
  - St. Joseph  (shared with Baroda Garage)
  - Benton
  - Bainbridge
  - Sodus  (shared with Eau Claire Garage)

- Approximately servicing 390 miles of roads
Watervliet Garage

- Built in 1955
- Main Garage 82’ x 72’
- Storage 100’ x 40’
- Salt storage 200 tons
- Unmanned
- Storage for fuel, aggregates and equipment
- Logistic support for Districts 56 & 42
Eau Claire Garage
Greg Trail, Foreman

- Built in 1980
- Main Garage 70’ x 90’
- Storage 100’ x 32’
- Salt storage 300 tons
- 8 Medium Equipment Operators
- District 42 Townships serviced:
  - Sodus (shared with Benton Harbor Garage)
  - Pipestone
  - Berrien
  - Buchanan (shared with Bakertown & Baroda Garages)
  - Niles
- Approximately servicing 310 miles of roads
Bakertown Garage
Chuck Palen, Foreman

- Built in 1964
- Main Garage 70’ x 120’
- Storage 40’ x 60’
- Salt storage 1,500 tons
- 10 Medium Equipment Operators
- District 43 Townships serviced:
  - New Buffalo
  - Three Oaks
  - Galien
  - Bertrand
  - Weesaw (shared with Baroda Garage)
  - Buchanan (shared with Baroda & Eau Claire Garages)
- Approximately servicing 340 miles of roads
Three Oaks Garage

- Built in 1951
- Main Garage 76’ x 82’
- Storage 40’ x 60’
- Salt storage 200 tons
- Unmanned
- Storage for fuel, aggregates and equipment
- Logistic support for Districts 43 & 44
Maintenance Shop
Scott Evans, Foreman

- 4 Mechanics
- Equipment serviced:
  - 50 Plow trucks with attachments
  - 6 Utility trucks
  - 1 Sign truck
  - 6 1-ton trucks
  - 24 Light-duty trucks
  - 6 Loaders
  - 3 Gradalls
  - 1 Excavator
  - 12 Tractors with mowers
  - 1 Dozer
  - 1 Athey
  - 2 Forklifts
  - 1 Crack sealer
  - 1 Chip spreader
  - 2 Distributors
  - 3 Rollers
  - 3 Graders
  - 2 Sweepers
Equipment
Central Dispatch and BCRD

- Radio communication
- Cell phones
- 24 Hour Call List

- Wind Storm Example:
  - Rob Cloinger

Tree Down Over Road?
Report Location and Size

Call us at 269-925-1196

BCRD Offices are Open
Monday - Friday from 7:30am - 4pm

If after hours please contact Central Dispatch by dialing 269-983-3060.

For road related emergencies call 911 immediately.
BCRD Contact Information

- Road Department Website
  - www.bcroad.org

- Service Request Phone Line
  - (269) 925-1196 ext 1

- Facebook
  - @BerrienCountyRoadDepartment

- Twitter
  - @BerrienRoad

- Instagram
  - @BerrienRoad

Normal office business hours are Monday – Friday 7:30am to 4pm*

For road related EMERGENCIES contact 911 dispatch

*Social media is NOT closely monitored after hours.
Questions?

BERRIEN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT