



Chatham Borough Police Department

Traffic Safety Unit



The Month of January brings cold inclement weather associated with difficult driving conditions. Here we provide tips for safe driving in the snow and ice, along with the NJ State Statutes as they pertain to the removal of ice and snow from motor vehicles. Also included are the Chatham Borough Municipal Ordinances which cover the removal of ice and snow from a property. Be mindful that when snow plow operations are required, motor vehicles are prohibited from parking on any Borough roadway.

Winter Driving Tips:

- Drive slow (at or below the posted speed limit) and adjust your speed for the changing road conditions.
- Turn on your headlights, using low beams when traveling in snow.
- Increase your following distance. In winter weather, travel at least eight to 10 seconds behind the car in front of you.
- Give snowplows plenty of room to work. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution in doing so. Remember, a snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see him, but they don't always see you.
- If you skid, don't brake or accelerate. Remove your foot from the gas, and gently steer your car in the direction of the skid (the direction the rear of your vehicle is sliding.) When your car starts heading in the desired direction, carefully straighten the wheel.
- Slow down before exiting the highway. Exit ramps often have icy patches, sharp curves and stalled or stopped vehicles.
- Have a personal safety kit easily accessible in your vehicle that includes: an ice scraper/brush; shovel; jumper cables or battery starter; blanket; sand, salt or kitty litter for traction; lock de-icer; flashlight and new batteries; extra windshield wiper fluid; safety flares/warning device; cell phone with spare battery; water and non-perishable food (i.e., granola or protein bars); and paper towels or a cloth.
- If your vehicle does become disabled, pull off the road as far as possible and turn on your emergency flashers. Remain with your vehicle until help arrives. If you can't get your vehicle off the road and are uncertain about your safety, do not stay in your vehicle or stand behind it. Proceed carefully to a safe location away from traffic.

NJ Motor Vehicle Code Title 39

39:4-77.1. Snow, ice dislodged from moving vehicle causing injury, property damage; penalties; public awareness campaign, data collection system.

1. a. (1) Each driver of a motor vehicle operated on a street or highway in this State shall have an affirmative duty to make all reasonable efforts to remove accumulated ice or snow from exposed surfaces of the motor vehicle prior to operation, which surfaces shall include, but



Chatham Borough Police Department

Traffic Safety Unit



not be limited to, the hood, trunk, windshield, windows, and roof of the motor vehicle, the cab of a truck, the top of a trailer or semitrailer being drawn by a motor vehicle, and the top of an intermodal freight container being carried by an intermodal chassis. A person who violates the provisions of this subsection may be stopped on a street or highway by a law enforcement officer who believes the accumulated ice or snow may pose a threat to persons or property and shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$75 for each offense regardless of whether any snow or ice is dislodged from the motor vehicle. No motor vehicle points or automobile insurance eligibility points pursuant to section 26 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-14) shall be assessed for a violation of this paragraph. Every day upon which a violation occurs shall be considered a separate violation, but no person shall be subject to more than one fine for a violation of this paragraph in a period of 24 consecutive hours.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to any driver of a motor vehicle operated during a snow or ice storm that began and continued for the duration of the motor vehicle's operation or to any operator of a motor vehicle while it is parked.

Chatham Borough Municipal Code:

§ 244-29 Depositing of snow or ice on streets or public places prohibited.

A.

No person shall place or caused to be placed any snow or ice upon any street, avenue, public highway or public place within the Borough.

B.

A commercial snowplow operator clearing accumulated snow on private property shall not deposit snow on any sidewalk, public road, street, or highway, or on public lands within the Borough.

§ 244-30 Obstruction of snowplowing operations prohibited.

A.

No person shall interfere with the snowplowing of any portion of any street, avenue, public highway, paved path or public place within the Borough by obstructing the travel or operation of a snowplowing vehicle operated on behalf of the Borough by placing any object, vehicle, or one's own person in a manner that prevents movement of the snowplowing vehicle past any point on any street, avenue, public highway or public place within the Borough of Chatham or prevents the movement or depositing of snow in any location.

B.

Any vehicle interfering with the work of removing or plowing snow or ice may be removed or towed by or under the direction of the Chief of Police at the vehicle owner's sole cost and expense.

§ 244-31 Placement of snow when shoveling or plowing.



Chatham Borough Police Department

Traffic Safety Unit



Snow shall not be shoveled or plowed from a driveway across a street, avenue, public highway or public place and piled at the opposite curb. Snow shall be plowed or shoveled back onto the property from which it was plowed or shoveled and feathered along the curb line of said property.

§ 244-32 Parking on snow-covered streets prohibited.

A.

No person shall park a vehicle upon either side of any street, avenue, public highway or public place within the Borough or allow any portion of a vehicle to extend into a street, avenue, public highway or public place when any accumulation of snow has completely covered the street, avenue, public highway or public place to such a depth that snow removal operations will be required.

B.

The above parking prohibitions shall remain in effect after the snow has ceased until the streets, avenues, public highways and public places within the Borough of Chatham have been plowed sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

C.

The effectiveness of this section is contingent upon signs being erected as required by law.

D.

Any unoccupied vehicle parked or standing in violation of this section shall be deemed a nuisance and a menace to the safe and proper regulation of traffic, and any police officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle. The owner shall pay the reasonable costs of the removal and storage which may result from such removal before regaining possession of the vehicle. The payment of reasonable costs of removal and storage shall be in addition to any fine assessed for such violation pursuant to § 244-52.

§ 221-11 Responsibility of owners, tenants and occupants.

A.

All property owners, tenants or occupants of lands adjacent to or abutting a sidewalk within the Borough of Chatham shall remove all snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of and, if a corner lot, alongside of their premises and including corner crosswalks, within the first 12 hours of daylight after same shall fall or be formed thereon, so as to effect a pathway or walkway having a width of not less than four feet, or, in the case of ice which may be so frozen as to make removal impracticable, shall cause the same to be thoroughly covered with sand, ashes, sawdust or other suitable material within 12 hours of daylight after the same shall fall or be formed thereon.

B.

In cases where a building is occupied by more than one family or multiple tenants, the property owner, tenants and occupants thereof are jointly and severally responsible for the removal of snow and ice as herein provided.



Chatham Borough Police Department

Traffic Safety Unit



§ 221-12 Placement upon sidewalk or paved path prohibited.

A. No person shall place or cause to be placed any snow or ice upon any sidewalk, paved path or public place within the Borough in any manner so as to interfere with public travel or to obstruct the access to or the operation of any fire hydrant.

B.

No person shall place or cause to be placed any snow or ice upon any sidewalk, paved path or public place within the Borough in such a manner to interfere with, or detract from the plowing or shoveling of said sidewalk, paved path or public place.

§ 221-13 Snow or ice removal by Borough; costs to become lien.

A.

In the event of the refusal or neglect of any property owner, tenant or occupant to comply with any of the provisions of this article within the time limit stated therein, the Director of Public Works may cause the snow or ice to be removed from such sidewalks. The cost of removal, as clearly as can be ascertained, shall be certified by the Director of Public Works to the Borough Council. The Borough Council shall examine such certification and, if found to be correct, shall cause such cost to be certified to the Tax Collector and charged against such real estate so abutting or bordering upon such sidewalks, and the amount so charged shall forthwith become a lien and a tax upon such real estate or land and be added to, recorded and collected in the same way and manner as the taxes next to be levied and assessed upon such premises, and shall bear interest and be enforced and collected by the same officers and in the same manner as other taxes.

B.

For the purpose of this chapter, each twenty-four-hour period following a snowfall or formation of ice shall constitute a separate offense for which prosecution shall be brought.

C.

The imposition and collection of a fine imposed for a violation of this article shall not constitute any bar to the right of the Borough to collect the cost as certified for the removal of such snow and ice in the manner herein authorized.