



## **SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT POLICY**

### **Revised**

#### **A. Authority**

The authority for the Significant Weather Event Policy shall be by the approval of the Council for the Township of Malahide.

The declaration of the beginning of a Significant Weather Event, and the subsequent declaration of the end of a Significant Weather Event is authorized by the *Municipal Act, 2001 through O Reg. 239/02 Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (MMS)* and shall be at the discretion of the Director of Public Works or his/her designate.

#### **B. Policy Statement**

Public safety is of the utmost importance to the Council of the Township of Malahide. For various reasons, it may be necessary to declare a Significant Weather Event to assist the municipality in meeting its obligations under the Minimum Maintenance Standards.

#### **C. Definitions**

“Council” – means the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Malahide.

“Director of Public Works” – means the Director of Public Works for the Corporation of the Township of Malahide or his/her designate.

“Significant Weather Event” - means an approaching or occurring weather hazard with the potential to pose a significant danger to users of the highways within a municipality.

“Township” – means The Corporation of the Township of Malahide.

“Weather Hazard” - means the weather hazards determined by Environment Canada as meeting the criteria for the issuance of an alert under its Public Weather Alerting Program.

#### **D. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a protocol for the declaration of a Significant Weather Event under Ontario Regulation 239/02, Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (MMS).

## E. Scope

This policy applies to the declaration of the Beginning of a Significant Weather Event, and the subsequent declaration of the End of a Significant Weather Event as authorized by the *Municipal Act, 2001 through O Reg. 239/02 Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (MMS)* for roadways maintained by the Township of Malahide.

## F. Procedures for the Significant Weather Event Policy

The Director of Public Works may declare a Significant Weather Event, pursuant to Regulation 239/02, Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways (MMS), for any or all of the following weather hazards on roadways maintained by the Township of Malahide:

Weather Alert:	Definition:
Blizzard Warning	When winds of 40 km/hr or greater are expected to cause widespread reductions in visibility to 400 metres or less, due to blowing snow, or blowing snow in combination with falling snow, for at least <b>4 hours</b> .
Blowing Snow Advisory	When blowing snow, caused by winds of at least 30 km/h, is expected to reduce visibility to 800 metres or less for at least <b>3 hours</b> .
Extreme Cold Warning	When the temperature or wind chill is expected to reach minus 35°C for at least <b>two hours</b> .
Flash Freeze Warning	When significant ice is expected to form on roads, sidewalks or other surfaces over much of a region because of the freezing of residual water from either melted snow, or falling/fallen rain due to a rapid drop in temperatures.
Fog Advisory	When low visibilities in Fog are expected for at least <b>6 hours</b>
Freezing Drizzle Advisory	When a period of freezing drizzle is expected for at least <b>eight hours</b> .
Freezing Rain Warning	When freezing rain is expected to pose a hazard to transportation or property; <b>Or</b> When freezing rain is expected for at least <b>two hours</b> .
Frost Advisory	Surface temperatures are expected to fall near freezing in the overnight period.
Heat Warning	When 2 or more consecutive days of daytime maximum temperatures are expected to reach 31°C or warmer and nighttime minimum temperatures are expected to fall to 20°C or warmer. <b>Or</b>

Weather Alert:	Definition:
	Issued when 2 or more consecutive days of humidex values are expected to reach 40 or higher.
Rainfall Warning	<p>When 50 mm or more of <u>rain</u> is expected within <b>one hour</b>;  <b>Or</b>  When 25 mm or more of <u>rain</u> is expected within <b>24 hours</b> in winter;  <b>Or</b>  When 50 mm or more of <u>rain</u> is expected within <b>24 hours</b> in summer;  <b>Or</b>  When 75 mm or more of rain is expected within <b>48 hours</b> in summer.</p>
Severe Thunderstorm Watch	<p>When conditions are favourable for the development of severe <u>thunderstorms</u> with one or more of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind gusts of 90 km/h or greater, which could cause structural wind damage;</li> <li>• <u>Hail</u> of two centimeters (cm) or larger in diameter; or</li> <li>• Heavy rainfall, as per rainfall criteria.</li> </ul>
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	<p>When there is evidence based on <u>radar</u>, satellite pictures, or from a reliable spotter that any one or more of the following three <u>weather</u> conditions is imminent or occurring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind gusts of 90 km/h or greater, which could cause structural wind damage;</li> <li>• <u>Hail</u> of two centimeters (cm) or larger in diameter; or</li> <li>• Heavy rainfall, as per rainfall criteria</li> </ul>
Snowfall Warning	When 15 cm or more of snow falls within 12 hours or less.
Snow Squall Watch	<p>When conditions are favourable for the development of open water <u>snow squall</u> downwind of large bodies of water, like the Great Lakes, with one or more of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Localized, intense snowfall producing snowfall amounts of 15 cm or more in <b>12 hours or less</b>.</li> <li>• Reduced <u>visibility</u> (less than 400 metres) caused by heavy snow with or without <u>blowing snow</u> for <b>3 hours or more</b>.</li> </ul>

Weather Alert:	Definition:
Snow Squall Warning	<p>Localized, intense snowfall producing snowfall amounts of 15 cm or more in 12 hours or less; and/or</p> <p>Reduced visibility (less than 400 metres) caused by heavy snow with or without blowing snow for 3 hours or more.</p>
Tornado Watch	When conditions are favourable for the development of severe <u>thunderstorms</u> with one or more <u>tornadoes</u> .
Tornado Warning	When a <u>tornado</u> has been reported; or when there is evidence based on <u>radar</u> , or from a reliable spotter that a tornado is imminent.
Weather Advisory	<p>A generic weather advisory.</p> <p>One example might be on days when funnel clouds are expected, but a Tornado alert would not be appropriate.</p>
Weather Warning	<p>A generic weather <u>warning</u> may be issued for extreme weather events for which there is no suitable warning type, because they rarely occur.</p> <p>A generic weather warning may also be issued for other weather events during situations where the environment is vulnerable due to pre-existing conditions and any further weather could result in a significant <u>hazard</u>. For example: 50 km/h <u>winds</u> following an ice storm which could cause structural wind damage.</p> <p>A generic weather warning may also be issued for situations where the event is not expected to reach warning criteria values, but there is a special reason for the warning. For example: the first event of the season, or an off-season event.</p>
Wind Warning	<p>70 km/h or more sustained <u>wind</u>;</p> <p><b>and/or</b></p> <p>Gusts to 90 km/h or more.</p>
Winter Storm Watch	<p>When conditions are favourable for the development of severe and potentially dangerous winter <u>weather</u>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <u>blizzard</u>;</li> <li>• A major snowfall (25 cm or more within a 24 hour period); and</li> </ul> <p>A significant snowfall (snowfall warning criteria amounts) combined with other winter weather hazard types such as: <u>freezing rain</u>, strong winds, <u>blowing snow</u> and/or extreme <u>wind chill</u>.</p>

Weather Alert:	Definition:
Winter Storm Warning	<p>When severe and potentially dangerous winter weather conditions are expected, including:</p> <p>A major snowfall (25 cm or more within a 24 hour period); and</p> <p>A significant snowfall (snowfall warning criteria amounts) combined with other cold weather precipitation types such as: freezing rain, strong winds, blowing snow and/or extreme cold.</p>

And/or

- Any other factor deemed relevant by the Director of Public Works.

Notice of the declaration of the beginning of a Significant Weather Event shall be made to the public through one or more of the following:

- By posting a notice on the Township website.
- By making an announcement on the Township Facebook page.
- By sending a press release or similar communication to internet, newspaper, radio or television media.
- By notification through the Ontario Provincial Police.

A sample notice of a Significant Weather Event Declaration is attached in Appendix A.

A sample notice of a Significant Weather Event Cancellation is attached in Appendix B.

## **G. General**

This Policy shall be administered by the Public Works Department.

This Policy shall be referred to as the Significant Weather Event Policy.

This Policy shall come into force and effect on the day of passing – December 12, 2018

This Policy was last revised – December 3, 2020

This Policy shall be reviewed as required.

## Appendix 'A'



### SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT DECLARATION

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The Township of Malahide is declaring a **SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT** in respect to HEAVY SNOWFALL, effective: 8:00am - Tuesday, December 1, 2020; until further notice.

Due to adverse weather conditions, the Director of Public Works is declaring a Significant Weather Event with respect to winter maintenance activities within the Township of Malahide pursuant to O. Reg. 239/02.

Drivers and Pedestrians are advised to exercise caution when navigating snow covered roads and sidewalks. Municipal staff continue to monitor road and weather conditions and will deploy resources where possible to ensure public safety.

For more information, please contact the Township of Malahide municipal office at 519-773-5344.

## Appendix 'B'



### **SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT CANCELLATION**

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The Significant Weather Event, declared in respect to HEAVY SNOWFALL commencing at 8:00am on December 1, 2020 pursuant to O. Reg. 239/02, is declared over as of 11:00am on December 3, 2020 by the Director of Public Works.

Township Roads Department Staff are continuing with regular winter maintenance activities. Drivers and Pedestrians are reminded to use caution while navigating in winter weather conditions.

For more information, please contact the Township of Malahide municipal office at 519-773-5344.