

Chapter 12.06 CLOSURE OR RESTRICTED USE OF ROADS

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12.06.010 Temporary closure – Posting notices.

In accordance with the provisions of RCW [46.44.080](#), whenever due to emergency conditions the use of a county road by all vehicles, or by vehicles whose gross tire loads exceed those described in either schedule contained in Section [12.06.020](#), will damage the highway or will be dangerous to traffic using the highway, the public works director, or the county engineer, shall close such road temporarily to all vehicles or to a designated class of vehicles, as the case may be, by posting notices at each end of the closed portion of road or roads. (Ord. 80-10 § 1 (part)).

12.06.020 Schedule of emergency load restrictions.

When imposing load restrictions pursuant to this chapter, the public works director, or the county engineer, shall specify and display by posted signs whichever of the following schedules of emergency load restrictions is necessary to protect the road from damage in accordance with the conditions then existing.

Emergency Load Restrictions

Conventional Tires

Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire (in pounds)
7.00	1800
7.50	2250
8.25	2800
9.00	3400
10.00	4000
11.00	4500
12.00 & over	4500

Tubeless or Special With .5 Marking

Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire (in pounds)
8-22.5	2250
9-22.5	2800
10-22.5	3400
11-22.5	4000
11-24.5	4000

12-22.5	4500
12-24.5 & over	4500

Severe Emergency Load Restrictions

Conventional Tires

Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire (in pounds)
7.00	1800
7.50	1800
8.25	1900
9.00	2250
10.00	2750
11.00 & over	3000

Tubeless or Special With .5 Marking

Tire Size	Gross Load Each Tire (in pounds)
8-22.5	1800
9-22.5	1900
10-22.5	2250
11-22.5	2750
11-24.5	2750
12-22.5 & over	3000

(Ord. 80-10 § 1 (part)).

12.06.030 Allowances permitted when.

No allowance will be made for any second rear axle that is suspended from the frame of a vehicle independent of the regular driving axle, commonly known as a rigid trail axle. Allowance will be made for single tires only, on the front axle of any truck. (Ord. 80-10 § 1 (part)).

12.06.040 Load distributions.

The load distribution on any one axle of any vehicle shall be such that it will not load the tires on the axle in excess of the prescribed load set forth in this chapter; provided, that a truck, truck tractor, passenger bus or school bus having conventional 10:00 x 20 tires or 11-22.5 tires, or larger, may carry a maximum load of 10,000 pounds on the front axle over any county road placed under emergency load restrictions. (Ord. 80-10 § 2).

12.06.050 Effect on other rules.

The rule set forth in Section [12.06.040](#) shall not supersede or modify any rule in force establishing load limitations on county road bridges. (Ord. 80-10 § 3).

12.06.060 Authority to implement provisions.

The director of public works or the county engineer shall have the authority to implement this chapter by publishing and posting notice in accordance with RCW [47.48.020](#); provided, however, that in case of emergency, the county executive, the director of public works, or the county engineer may, without publication or delay, close county roads temporarily to all vehicles or designated class of vehicles or place other conditions or restrictions by posting

notice of same at each end of the closed portion of road or roads. Such restrictions shall be effective immediately upon posting. (Ord. 80-10 § 4).

12.06.070 Special permits.

The director of public works, or the county engineer, pursuant to RCW [46.44.080](#), may issue special permits in writing authorizing the operation of school buses, emergency vehicles and motor trucks transporting perishable commodities or commodities necessary for the health and welfare of local residents under specified weight and speed restrictions as may be necessary to protect any county road from undue damage. (Ord. 80-10 § 5).

12.06.080 Violation – Penalty.

When any county road or portion thereof has been closed, as provided by this chapter, any person, firm or corporation disregarding such closing and using such county roads or portions thereof with any vehicle or any class of vehicles, as the case may be, to which the county road or portion thereof is closed or restricted or conditions placed thereupon by any notice or emergency notice, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, in addition to any penalties for violation of the provisions of this chapter, be liable in any civil action instituted in the name of Whatcom County for any damages caused to county road or roads or portions thereof, as the case may be, as a result of disregarding such closing and using such county road or roads or portions thereof with any vehicle or any class of vehicle or violation of conditions or restrictions to which the road or roads or portions thereof is closed. In addition thereto, any person, firm or corporation in violation of this chapter or portions thereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and each day during which such violation is continued or committed shall constitute a separate offense and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding 90 days or both such fine and imprisonment. (Ord. 80-10 § 6).

The Whatcom County Code is current through Ordinance 2014-047, passed August 5, 2014, and Resolution 2014-037, passed August 5, 2014.

Disclaimer: The Clerk of the Board's Office has the official version of the Whatcom County Code. Users should contact the Clerk of the Board's Office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.