

Calais Roads Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Who is on the Road Crew?

Alfred Larrabee is the Road Commissioner and the crew is made up of Bruce Campbell, Jacob Earle, and Paul Stecker, with part-time support from Ed Rowell, Nathan Smith, Dana Huoppi. Toby Talbot is the part-time Operations Manager who supports the road commissioner and crew.

Question: Who should I contact with concerns or questions about the roads?

Alfred Larrabee is the main contact and can be reached at (802) 456-7466. You can also visit the town garage at 6011 RT. 14. They welcome your input, and road commissioner appreciates hearing your comments and concerns. Alfred's email is calaisroadcommissioner@myfairpoint.net.

Question: Does the road crew focus on specific routes before others?

The road crew works on bus routes first and applies more material to those routes.

Question: What is the deal with the County Road?

Salt doesn't work when it is colder than 20 °F. When the temperature rises, salt can make road conditions worse by creating a slushy mess – then when it gets bitter cold the slush freezes. Alfred Larrabee makes critical decisions as to how to use road materials based on weather conditions, which frequently shift and are different on various parts of County Road.

Question: Why are East Montpelier's roads seemingly better maintained?

Calais gets weather from the Worcester range that East Montpelier doesn't. Calais is also at a higher elevation than East Montpelier, particularly around the County Road. East Montpelier applies a different product on their portion of the County Road. Calais has recently purchased this product, known as 'Ice B' Gone', and is now applying it to all paved roadways in town. This product works in very cold temperatures (up to -35 °F).

Question: What are the road crews' hours and routes?

The Town of Calais employees do winter maintenance on more than 73 miles of class 2 and 3 town highways. Each employee has a specific route (rodeo), which takes about four to six hours to complete, and will often complete more than one rodeo in a 24-hour period. These routes vary only for emergency situations (fire, ambulance, etc.). In accordance with the town's Winter Operations Plan, road maintenance (plowing & sanding) begins between 2-3 a.m., so that main arteries and bus routes are clear for morning travel.

Question: What happens during extreme weather events?

The road crew varies their plow routes and hours of operation to accommodate extreme weather events.

Question: Should I speak to the road crew directly?

Yes!

Road Commissioner: Alfred Larabee Crew: Bruce Campbell, Jacob Earl, and Paul Stecker