

STEVENS COUNTY POLICY AND PROCEDURE  
EMERGENCY WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS  
(condensed version)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is threefold:

- Establish general load limitations on County roads during periods where field conditions indicate that substantial damage may be incurred without such limitations.
- Establish special load limitations for emergency vehicles, school buses, vehicles transporting perishable commodities and vehicles providing services and/or commodities necessary for health and welfare.
- Request assistance from the Washington State Patrol and/or Washington State Department of Transportation with weight control enforcement.

**Vehicular Traffic Classes:**

- Class I: School buses, emergency vehicles
- Class II: Vehicles transporting food, milk, home heating oil
- Class III: Public utility vehicles
- Class IV: Vehicles transporting animal feed and agricultural products
- Class V: Vehicles transporting farm and industrial equipment for repair
- Class VI: Vehicles not mentioned above

**Emergency Load Limitations and Restriction States:**

- Stage One (1): Free and unrestricted hauling of legal loads.
- Stage Two (2): Vehicles in Class II-VI will be allowed to haul as posted –
  1. 100% of licensed GVW will be allowed between 12:00 AM and 9:00 AM.
  2. 60% of licensed GVW will be allowed between 9:01 AM and 11:59 PM.
  3. No permits are required.
- Stage Three (3): Vehicles in Class II-VI will be allowed to haul under conditions of tire size chart (available at the Public Works office) and as posted.
- Signs shall be posted designating the load limitations.
- Variances from weight limitations may be issued on a case by case basis.

**Special Permits:** Any applicant shall apply in person to the Department of Public Works, 185 E. Hawthorne, Colville, and shall assume full responsibility for compliance with State and County regulations.

- The Area Road Supervisor will be consulted and the following conditions considered:
  1. Number and frequency of trips requested
  2. Other permits granted for the same route
  3. Availability of alternate routes
  4. Climactic conditions
  5. Past performance of roadway section/route
  6. Degree of overload over restricted load limits
  7. Current road surface condition
- A permit will be issued for a specific vehicle.
- No permit will be issued for vehicles transporting weights in excess of normal legal loads.
- A business may apply for consideration of a departmental haul road agreement.

**Penalty and Action for Damage:** A violation of the resolution adopting emergency weight restrictions shall constitute a traffic infraction. Any person operating a motor vehicle in violation shall be liable for any damage caused.