



Spring Weight Restrictions

Fact Sheet

February 2022

General Information:

In the spring, during and after the timeframe when the frost comes out, roadway surfaces are in a weakened condition and are especially susceptible to damage. Spring weight restrictions are a strategy to preserve paved and gravel roadway surfaces during the time when they are most vulnerable to damage. Repair and replacement of roads in Chisago County are costly and we need to preserve the taxpayer's investment in this road system. Overweight vehicles during spring weight restrictions could literally cause millions of dollars of damage.

Quick Links and Facts:

- Chisago County spring weight restriction information is posted at:
<https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/390/Maintenance-Division>
- Chisago County follows the spring weight restriction dates set by MnDOT, which vary from year-to-year depending on frost and weather conditions. MnDOT's website with this information is available at:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/materials/pvmt/design/sll/index.html>
- During spring load restrictions, County roads in Chisago County are posted according to the Chisago County Spring Weight Restriction Map available at the above webpage.
- Chisago County does not issue overweight permits during the spring weight restrictions timeframe.
- During spring weight restrictions, on roads that are not posted with specific weight limits, allowable weights under Minnesota law (Statute 169.87 subdivision 2) are:
 - 10 tons per axle on paved roads (the same as normal), and
 - 5 tons per axle on unpaved roads.
- Most gravel township roads are not specifically posted during spring weight restrictions, so they have a 5 ton axle weight limit during spring weight restrictions.
- Normal allowable weights (not during spring weight restrictions) are as follows (Statute 169.823), unless a lower weight limit is posted on the road:
 - 10 tons per axle on paved roads, and
 - 9 tons per axle on unpaved roads.

Conclusion:

Efficient trucking for the movement of goods and materials is critical for our economy and for the livelihood of businesses. The need for efficient commerce must be balanced with the need to protect the taxpayer's investment in roadway infrastructure. Most state highways (Interstate, U.S. and Minnesota Trunk Highways) remain at 10 tons per axle limits during spring weight restrictions. Many County roads in Chisago County have adequate structure and are posted at 9 or 10 ton axle limits during spring load restrictions, to allow for normal commerce. For those roads that are posted at lower values and on unpaved roads, we ask everyone's cooperation in adhering to the spring weight restriction weight limits. In most cases, if a road is destroyed there is simply no money available to repair or replacing – unless funds are diverted from other resurfacing projects, which means a road that had waited its turn doesn't get resurfaced.