

WINTER DRIVING REMINDERS

A few reminders for the winter driving season:

Before you leave home, you can check the following WisDOT webpage for winter driving conditions on major state highways: <https://511wi.gov/winterroadconditions>.

Plow Drivers Need Your Cooperation

Modern plow trucks are great machines. The people who operate these trucks in all types of weather, both by day and by night, are tasked with a very challenging duty. At times visibility is zero and temperatures are sub-zero. They can be required to work around the clock for several days with a standard work policy of 16 hours on duty and 6 hours off between shifts.

Freezing rain, wind and heavy snow are some of the challenges nature delivers for these operators. They are part of the job and cannot be controlled. However, there are other challenges of human nature that can be addressed and hopefully minimized or eliminated. Some of the common concerns plow operators face are:

- Motorists driving too fast for conditions. Slow down when it's slippery.
- Motorists following too closely behind the truck. If you cannot see the mirror, the driver cannot see you!
- Distracted driving is a growing concern. Please hang up and drive, especially during snow and ice events.

These operators need respect, consideration, and cooperation to do their jobs safely and successfully. Always consider plow operators. Please do not pull out in front of them from a stop sign at an intersection. These trucks are heavy and do not stop as quickly as your car or light truck can. Please consider these safety goals every time it snows. It will be appreciated by snowplow drivers, and everyone can get home safely.

In the event your mailbox gets damaged during winter operations please call the following to report it:

On a town road (named such as Smith Road, James Lane, etc.) you must call your town Chairperson or Supervisor to report the damage, even if the Highway Department plows that road. The town officials make the necessary arrangements for repair if warranted.

If you live on a County Highway (lettered such as CTH E, CTH AP, etc.), or a State Highway (numbered such as STH 21, USH 45, etc.), call and report mailbox damage to the Highway Department at 920-232-1700. If it is after hours, you may leave your name, address, and call back number on the voicemail and it will be attended to as soon as practical.