

☰ Tool Box Talk | Snow Plow Safety

Winter is almost here; the following checklist may be of help when you begin plowing streets and removing snow and ice. Be familiar with the route: If possible, each driver should travel the planned snow route in good weather to become familiar with physical hazards or conditions which could cause an accident or property damage during actual snow and ice removal. Some of the conditions to look for include the following:

- ⇒ Uneven road surfaces (manhole covers, construction, medians, curbs, brick streets)
- ⇒ Mailboxes, fences, parked cars
- ⇒ Limited visibility in intersections
- ⇒ Adequate clearance (viaducts, narrow streets, low hanging limbs and wires), especially when running with the bed up

Inspect all trucks and plows, immediately before and after each use, and document the inspections.

Be sure to include the following:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All lights and signals | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-way radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Horn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tires | <input type="checkbox"/> Spreader/spinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Mirrors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Plow bolt | <input type="checkbox"/> Heater/defrost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windshield wipers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting edges | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluid levels | <input type="checkbox"/> Back-up alarm | |



REMEMBER THESE SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PLOWING SNOW

- ⇒ Come to work well-rested and hydrated. Eat a light meal.
- ⇒ Bring your go-bags packed with spare clothes, gloves, socks, hat, and healthy snacks and drinks.
- ⇒ Clear vehicle steps of snow and use three points of contact when entering and exiting vehicle.
- ⇒ Do not use your cell phones when driving / plowing. Your full attention must be on driving.
- ⇒ Drive defensively. Other drivers may not. You must make allowances for them. Maintain a safe following distance. Slow down if you are tailgated. Have a plan for difficult locations on your route.
- ⇒ Watch your speed! Operating at the safest speed will maximize visibility and stopping distance. The proper speed will also reduce wear-and-tear on equipment. It will also reduce claims from damage to mailboxes, parked vehicles, and other private property.
- ⇒ Be alert when plowing snow on overpasses and bridges. Snow can be thrown over the sides onto vehicles or even people passing underneath.
- ⇒ Take breaks! Stay alert. Monitor yourself for drowsiness and maintain communication with supervisors.
- ⇒ Your amber warning lights must be turned on. Do not direct traffic around your plow. If you get out of the truck, wear your high-visibility vest or jacket.



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This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: _____

Trainer: _____ **Trainer's Signature:** _____

Participants:

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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