

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan	2022-13
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KEEPING MOTORISTS SAFE ON WINTER ROADS IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

The Van Buren County Road Commission is preparing for a mix of wintry weather, including significant snowfall and high winds. As in any weather, the safety of our motorists is a top priority. Our crews will be hard at work plowing and salting during this winter storm event. It's important for residents to remain patient during major snow events, particularly during this holiday season time.

With temperatures predicted to fall to approximately 10 degrees with wind chills well below zero, the effectiveness of road salt changes rapidly. That's why the Van Buren County Road Commission utilizes a sand-salt mixture giving motorists extra traction on the roads. In addition, the Road Commission utilizes BOOST as a de-icing agent to remove snow and ice that has already accumulated, especially when temperatures start to fall below 20 degrees. BOOST is also used to pre-wet the roadway before spreading sand-salt allowing the materials to work at much lower temperatures. Determining when and how these materials are used to treat the roads is a balancing act and it's all about finding the right balance.

If you must travel during the holidays, we're asking motorists to give our plow drivers room to work as visibility during snow events is reduced, particularly when drivers get too close to plows. Here are a few tips to help our snowplow operators:

- ❄ Staying home will keep you safe and will help emergency crews focus on improving road conditions.
- ❄ Wear your seatbelt and always allow extra time to reach your destination - especially on snowy days.
- ❄ Don't attempt to pass a snowplow vehicle while they're plowing.
- ❄ Plow drivers have limited visibility and they cannot see directly behind their trucks. Plus, plows can suddenly move sideways from hitting drifts or by cutting through packed snow. Motorists are advised not to travel next to a plow!
- ❄ Don't build snow forts, make tunnels, or play in, or on snowbanks next to roads.
- ❄ Keep well away from the edge of the roadway as you wait for the school bus, get the mail, or watch the plow trucks.
- ❄ Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.
- ❄ Keep sleds and toys away from the roadways at all times.
- ❄ Keep garbage cans up in the driveway if it snows on garbage collection day.
- ❄ Do not park vehicles on the road, park vehicles in driveways as far from the road as possible.

The best advice from the Road Commission: **Drive slow on ice and snow; it means everyone will make it home for the holidays!**

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