

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan		2 026-01	
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WINTER SAFETY REMINDER

THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

During the winter months, the Van Buren County Road Commission carries out many responsibilities—but none are more visible, or more critical, than snow and ice control. Snow plowing is also among the Road Commission's dangerous jobs due to limited visibility, challenging weather conditions, and heavy traffic. That's why we're asking residents—especially parents, children, and newly licensed drivers—to help us keep everyone safe this winter.

HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP PLOWS AND PEOPLE SAFE:

- **Stay off snowbanks along roadways.** Please do not build snow forts, make tunnels, or play on snowbanks near roads. Plows cannot see children hidden in the snow.
- **Keep a safe distance from the road.** Stand well back from the edge of the roadway while waiting for the school bus, getting the mail, or watching plow trucks at work.
- **Avoid driveways when plows are approaching.** Stay clear of the end of the driveway—plows may throw snow or shift unexpectedly.
- **Keep toys and sleds out of the roadway.** Toys left near the road can slide into traffic or become dangerous obstacles.
- **Place garbage cans well up the driveway on snowy collection days.** This helps prevent damage to cans and keeps plow routes clear.

FOR DRIVERS:

- **Turn on your headlights, override the automatic light control in your vehicle AND clean off your vehicle before driving.** It prevents visibility obstruction for you (from snow sliding onto the windshield) and hazards for others (flying ice chunks causing crashes, damaging other cars, or blinding other drivers).
- **Buckle up and allow extra travel time** in winter conditions.
- **Never attempt to pass a snow plow** while it is plowing.
- **Do not travel beside a plow**—drivers have limited visibility, especially to the rear. And plow trucks can suddenly move sideways when hitting drifting or packed snow.
- **Most importantly: Stay 200' back from the snowplow - it's the law!** For a point of reference, 200' is roughly comparable to 13 car lengths. The law also requires drivers to stop at least 20' away from a snowplow stopped at an intersection. We need room to groom!

Keeping our roads safe is a shared responsibility. By working together and watching out for one another, we can help protect our children, our drivers, and the road crews who work tirelessly to keep Van Buren County moving all winter long.

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