

## SNOW PLOW OPERATORS – PREPARATIONS

As the beginning of Snow Season is upon us, please remember these important best practices:

1. Work with your family to make sure your family and house are prepared for your absence during major snow events
  - Schools and daycares centers may also be closed. Make alternate arrangements for childcare.
  - Your sidewalks, walkways and steps also need to be cleared. Make arrangements to get this done even though you may be away for extended periods, possibly even days for some towns.
  - Make a list of tasks that must be done before an extended storm. Items on the list may include
    - i. Buying spare medications, food staples, salt & snow shovels and scrapers.
    - ii. Checking batteries in flashlights and smoke / CO detectors
    - iii. 'Battening down' outside your home
  - Make contingency plans for electrical outages, or a problem with your homes' electrical, heating, or plumbing. Post emergency phone numbers for utilities and repair services.
  
2. 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, medications, and healthy snacks & drinks.
  - Do not use your cell phones when driving / plowing. Your full attention must be on driving.
  - Watch your speed! Operating at the safest speed will maximize visibility and stopping distance. The proper speed will also reduce wear-and-tear on our equipment. It will also reduce claims from damage to mailboxes, parked vehicles, and other private property. IF you do damage any property, either municipal or private, **[INSERT YOUR REPORTING PROCEDURE]**.
  - 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 take action.
  - 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.
  - Above all else: DRIVE DEFENSIVELY. You are professional drivers. We know other drivers are 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.
  - If you see a motorist or pedestrian in trouble, **[INSERT YOUR PROCEDURES]**.

Additional points / comments to be made:

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Follow-up actions:

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