



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SARATOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFERS TIPS FOR WINTER DRIVING AND SHARING THE ROAD WITH SNOWPLOWS

BALLSTON SPA, NY – As winter weather sets in, Saratoga County officials urge drivers to prioritize safety on icy and snowy roads. With snowplows hard at work clearing roadways, it's essential for motorists to practice safe driving habits and show extra caution around these vehicles.

Driving Near Snowplows:

- **Don't Crowd the Plow:** Snowplows are wide, often extending beyond the width of a standard lane. Give them plenty of room to work, maintaining several car lengths between your vehicle and the plow. Staying well behind the plow where the road is freshly plowed is advised.
- **Don't Follow the Plow into an Intersection:** Plowing an intersection is one of the most difficult operations for snowplows as they must do several backing maneuvers to clear the intersection of snow and ice. When vehicles follow a plow into the intersection backing up becomes problematic and increases the potential for accidents.
- **Avoid Blind Spots:** Plows have large blind spots. If you can't see the driver's mirrors, they can't see you.
- **Be Patient:** Snowplows travel at slower speeds to clear roads effectively. Maintain a safe distance and don't tailgate.

"Snowplows and road crews work tirelessly to keep roads clear and safe during winter storms," said Chad Cooke, Commissioner of the Saratoga County Department of Public Works. "By giving them space and driving cautiously we can help reduce accidents, so everyone reaches their destinations safely."

(more)

Winter Driving Safety Tips:

- **Slow Down:** Icy roads reduce traction, increasing the risk of accidents. Drive at a speed appropriate for road conditions.
- **Increase Following Distance:** Keep extra room between your vehicle and others to allow for vehicle braking under icy conditions.
- **Clear Your Vehicle:** Remove all snow and ice from windows, mirrors, lights, and the vehicle's roof before driving to ensure full visibility.
- **Use Caution on Bridges and Overpasses:** These surfaces freeze faster and stay icy longer.
- **Pack an Emergency Kit:** Include blankets, water, snacks, a flashlight, jumper cables, and a fully charged phone.
- **Plan your route, check the weather, and leave early to allow extra travel time:** Saratoga County motorists can check traffic conditions and advisories on the county [website](#). The Department of Public Works' traffic advisory tool displays current road closures, construction, incidents, and weather information.

Saratoga County Department of Public Works Winter Storm Preparedness:

- Saratoga County Department of Public Works (SC DPW) has 24 active snowplow beats.
- The SC DPW operates two shifts per day with a total of 48 active plow drivers and wing operators.
- SC DPW plows 365 miles of roadway countywide.
- SC DPW staff have equipment to manage downed trees and clear roadways, if necessary, during a winter storm event.
- While spreading salt during a countywide winter storm event, one plow beat pass will utilize approximately 390 tons of salt.
- It is not uncommon to spread upwards of 1,900 tons or more of salt for a winter storm event. This, of course, depends on the storm's severity and duration.
- SC DPW has two garage facilities, one in Ballston Spa and one in Hadley. The County's salt storage capacity totals 8,300 tons.
- Saratoga County is constantly replenishing its salt stores throughout the winter to be ready for the next big winter weather event.

For more information about Saratoga County Department of Public Works, visit www.saratogacountyny.gov/DPW.

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