



Snowplow Operations

Snowplow related auto claims account for the majority of the pool's auto coverage losses. These claims are costly and include damage to snowplow equipment, damage to resident property, damage to other vehicles and sometimes accident-related injuries. The following tips will help you to keep your roads safe and clear without causing an accident.

- Before the first storm, drive and inspect your plow route for potential hazards such as raised manholes or storm drains, protruding curbing, rock walls, etc. These should be removed, repaired or flagged. Familiarize yourself with narrow roads, guardrail locations or other hazardous conditions.
- Be aware of your own personal limitations and always practice defensive driving techniques.
- Get plenty of rest before an expected storm hits. Operating a snowplow takes extreme focus and can be quite tiring. If you find yourself unable to focus while driving: take a break. Do not put yourself or the public at risk.
- Do not operate after consuming alcohol or using prescription drugs that may cause drowsiness.
- Prepare for changing weather and road conditions by monitoring the local weather forecast.
- Inspect your vehicle and equipment before you begin your snow plowing duties. Check tires, fluid levels, lights, brakes, chains, plows and wings, spreaders, etc. Also make sure the vehicle frame and body is free of sand and rocks that might cause damage to following vehicles.
- Dress for the conditions that you expect to encounter. Bring extra layers of clothes and spare gloves.
- Always wear your seatbelt! IT'S THE LAW!
- Maintain communications: Keep in contact with base and if appropriate, the local police and/or fire department.
- Stop periodically to clear ice and snow completely from windows and from headlights, backlights and warning lights.
- Follow defensive driving practices. Increase your following distance behind other vehicles. Allow tailgaters to safely pass you.
- Allow for extra stopping distances on ice and snow. Be especially cautious when entering intersections.
- Avoid unnecessary backing. Back up only when there is no other way to get the job done. Walk around a parked vehicle before driving or backing it, to make sure it's safe to do so. Make sure the audible back up alarm is working.
- Continuously check both sides of your vehicle for adequate clearances.
- Make sure mirrors are properly adjusted.
- Practice! Many snowplow-related claims happen in December after the first snowfall when operators are out plowing for the first time. Set up a cone course in your town and practice driving before the snow comes.
- Communicate your snow plow policy to your residents. What do you do if you have parked vehicles in your way? Do you have a tow truck on call?

Snowplow Operations Sign In Sheet



Municipality

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