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## NEWS RELEASE

### Snow Removal – Don't Make it a Hazard

The Wright County Highway Department would like to remind Wright County citizens of the hazards and liabilities of pushing snow from driveways onto any public highway. The snow, which may be left on the roadway or piles of snow left on the side of the road, can create real hazards not only for motorists but also for snow removal crews and equipment. In the past, snowplows have been damaged when hitting compacted and frozen snow deposited on or next to the County Highways.

Minnesota Statutes (160.27, Subdivision 5) prohibits plowing, shoveling, blowing or in any way depositing snow on any public highway. The violation is punishable as a misdemeanor. In addition, the property owner and/or person dumping the snow could be liable should a civil lawsuit result.

#### We would also like to share some snow plow safety tips with you.

Make sure to educate children on the dangers of snow removal and make sure they play safely! Please remind them to:

- Never build tunnels or snow forts in the snowbanks near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off the plows can collapse the tunnels or forts and harm/or bury the child.
- Keep sleds and toys out of the street and away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks can make it hard for plow drivers to see children playing in these areas.

#### 5 Tips for Sharing the Road with Snow Plow Drivers (flyer attached)

- Starts to slow down as soon as you see the snow plow and stay at least 5 car lengths (70 feet) back.
- Don't stop too close.
- Give the snow plow room to work.
- Take extreme caution when passing.
- Permit the plow extra room in high risk areas.

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

Thank you,

Wright County Highway Department  
763-682-7383



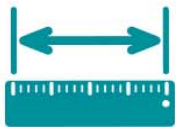
# 5 TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD WITH SNOW PLOW DRIVERS



**1. Start to slow down as soon as you see the snow plow, and stay at least five car lengths (70 feet) back.** Staying back will allow you enough time to react if the snow plow needs to stop quickly or avoid a road obstacle.



**2. Don't stop too close.** Snowplows are usually spreading deicing materials from the back of the truck. The salt, sand or cinders can damage your vehicle.



**3. Give the snow plow room to work.** The driver's field of vision is restricted around some parts of the plow, so they may not always be able to see you. And, be patient – they're working to help you. If you're not in a hurry, don't pass them. The road behind the snowplow will be safer to drive on anyways.



**4. Take extreme caution when passing.** Don't drive too close. The front plow may cross the road's centerline and shoulders. Snow plows can also create clouds of snow that can reduce or completely eliminate your visibility.



**5. Permit the plow extra room in high risk areas.** Areas where drivers are most at risk might include hills, curves, ramps, bridges and interchanges.