

Maple Lake Township  
Wright County, Minnesota

Ordinance # 2013-1

An Ordinance Regulating Mail Box Installation and Maintenance

Mailboxes and mailbox supports are the property of the mail route patron. Maple Lake Township does not issue permits for the placement of mailboxes within the right-of-way, nor do our easements provide for mailbox construction. All mailboxes placed within the right-of-way, are placed there at the owner's risk.

When there is an accumulation of snow, the location of mailboxes close to the Town road makes the plowing operations of the Township difficult, and renders the boxes quite susceptible to damage as the result of such activity. It is the Township's policy to use special care and consideration when plowing snow in their vicinity. Despite this care and consideration, some mailboxes will be knocked down or destroyed during the snow removal season. In the majority of the cases it is the weight of the snow coming off of the plow or the wing which destroys a mailbox. However, on occasion wings will hit and damage them.

We believe most of the mailbox damage which occurs during a typical winter, would be eliminated if postal patrons would install a mailbox support that swings away when hit by snow or plow equipment. The Township has available support posts, which have been tested, and is acceptable in terms of nationally tested safety criteria. The use of this support provides a much safer environment for all motorists. It also makes the job of snow removal much easier, and reduces cost and irritation to mailbox patrons when boxes are destroyed due to flying snow. Maple Lake Township encourages the use of this support.

Specific elements of the ordinance are as follows:

1. The mailbox supports shall be the property of the property owner upon completion of installation, and any repair or replacement will be at the owner's expense.
2. Once the support is in conformance with the Township approved standards, it cannot be replaced with a different one that is not in conformance. Failure to comply with the Township's mailbox ordinance may result in removal of any non-conforming support, and the owner subject to a misdemeanor.
3. During the course of Township maintenance or reconstruction, if a support must be removed, it will be reconstructed at Township expense.