

Dept. of Transportation: November 29 is Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day in Wisconsin

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Governor Tony Evers has proclaimed Monday, November 29, as Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day in Wisconsin to remind drivers of the need to give snowplow drivers plenty of space to complete their jobs safely.

“Wisconsin’s snowplow drivers work long hours in often tough conditions to ensure safe roadways,” Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary Craig Thompson said. “We applaud them for their dedication to safety and service, and also ask that drivers do their part for safe winter maintenance operations. Always give snowplows room to work and, when possible, avoiding travel during storms.”

For more than 100 years, Wisconsin has maintained a unique partnership with the state’s 72 county highway departments. During the winter, county highway workers help keep the state highway systems safe by providing snow plowing, salting and liquid applications. WisDOT works with Wisconsin counties year-round to establish best practices and test new tools for safety and efficiency.

Every driver can thank Wisconsin plow drivers by staying safe on the road this winter.

- Before traveling, call 511 or go online to check on road conditions and possible incidents. Consider downloading the 511 Wisconsin smartphone app.
- Buckle up, phone down. Watch what’s happening ahead of you and allow plenty of following distance.
- Most traffic crashes in winter are caused by drivers going too fast for conditions. Posted speed limits apply when travel conditions are ideal. Drivers

are advised to slow down when roads are slick or visibility is reduced.

- Stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow. Make sure that you can see the plow's mirrors to ensure the driver can see you.
- If you must pass, be careful. Snowplows often create a cloud of snow that can obscure vision. Remember that road conditions in front of the plow will likely be worse.
- Don't be over-confident if you operate a four-wheel or all-wheel-drive vehicle. They still require a considerable distance to stop on slick roadways.
- During major winter storms, postpone or cancel your trip. Stranded motorists and vehicles become hazards that interfere with snow removal efforts.