



Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786

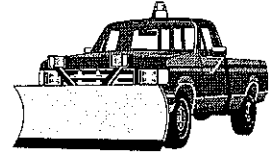


Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 415: Snow Plow Safety

Introduction: Driving a snowplow is demanding work which requires driving for long hours in the worst conditions. Snow plows are operated to ensure the safety of motorists traveling in inclement weather. However, the snow plow operator must never overlook their own safety. Following are guidelines for safety while operating snow plows:



Pre-season snow plow inspection - It is easier to find and correct problems in the shop, than in the middle of a snowfall.

- **Electrical systems** - Inspect for corrosion, loose connections, broken wiring and insulation (bare wiring). Check the battery connections on the vehicle, and the connections at the plow solenoid on the vehicle. Be sure to use a light coating of anti-corrosion grease on all connections. Check the connections at the hydraulic pump. Check any wiring harness plugs for corrosion, clean any corrosion, and coat them with grease as well. Check the lighting system and ensure all lights are in operable condition.
- **Mechanical systems** - Inspect the cutting edge for wear. If there is only 1" of edge or less left from the bottom edge of the plow, you should have a new cutting edge on hand. Replace it *before* you start wearing into the plow moldboard. Inspect the A frame of the plow for bends, cracked or broken welds, and loose or missing bolts. Inspect and adjust the trip springs as needed. Inspect the lift chain for wear. Inspect any pins on the plow and frame. Clean off any corrosion with a wire brush, and lightly grease the pins before replacing. If the moldboard is rusted or corroded, clean, paint, and wax it. A smooth moldboard prevents snow from sticking and lessens resistance.
- **Hydraulic systems** - Inspect hoses for wear, cuts, and loose fittings. Check pistons for corrosion or bent rods. Grease any pins or fittings which require it. Change hydraulic oil and filters.

The vehicle used for plowing must be in good working condition, and conform to all applicable requirements for motor vehicle safety. Before each use, inspect the following to ensure proper condition:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| * All Lights and Signals | * Fluid Levels |  | * Cutting Edges | * Heat/Defroster |
| * Tires | * 2-Way Radio | | * Back-up Alarm | * First Aid Kit |
| * Brakes | * Spreader/Spinner | | * Horn | * Flares/safety equipment |
| * Windshield Wipers | * Plow Bolt | | * Mirrors | |

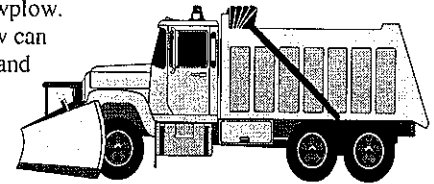
Be familiar with the route: If possible, each driver should travel the planned snow route in good weather to become familiar with physical hazards or conditions which could cause an accident or property damage during actual snow and ice removal. Some of the conditions to look for include the following:

- * Uneven road surfaces (construction, medians, curbs, bridge joints, railroad tracks)
- * Mail boxes, fences, parked cars
- * Limited visibility in intersections
- * Adequate clearance (viaducts, narrow bridges, low hanging limbs and wires), especially when running with the bed up.



Safety guidelines for snow plowing:

- Wear proper clothing and protective equipment for the job.
- Choose the speed appropriate for the conditions. Do not rush, take the time to do the job properly.
- Keep headlights on at all times when traveling.
- Be considerate of motorists having trouble driving in the snow. Keep your temper and patience when vehicles pass or tailgate.
- Be brief when using the radio. Report stranded motorists or emergencies whenever possible.
- Observe all traffic laws and signal your intentions clearly. Remember to wear your seatbelt.
- Before leaving the cab, lower the plow, set the brakes and disengage the power to the spreader and snowplow.
- Watch for signs of fatigue, long hours and stress can take their toll. Staring for hours at the driving snow can have a hypnotizing effect on drivers as well. If you feel the onset of fatigue, take a short break--get out and walk around the truck and take some deep breaths. Never drive when drowsy, on medication which prohibits operating machinery or driving, or after drinking alcohol.
- Watch for areas on your route where there may be children playing in deep snow.
- Watch for pedestrians walking in or near the street.
- Don't back up, unless it is absolutely necessary. Backing is the greatest cause of vehicle accidents while snow plowing.



Conclusion: Remember defensive driving techniques, including proper following distance and safe braking on slippery surfaces. Many drivers you will share the road with are unaware of safe driving practices around snow plows, or in inclement weather; therefore, watch out for the other guy.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature:

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.