

Huron County Road Commission Reminds Motorists



“Don’t Crowd the Plow!”

In cooperation with a joint-education effort led by the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) the Huron County Road Commission is urging motorists to remember good driving habits in winter weather conditions that make the roadways safer.

“Our road crews put their lives on the line daily to keep the roads in Huron County safe and open to commerce, Michael Power, Road Commission Chairman said. “We will continue to do our part to keep the roads cleared, but motorists must remember to drive with caution no matter how much salt we use or how often the roads are plowed.”

The Huron County Road Commission is responsible for maintaining 1,623 miles of roads, including 153 miles of state trunkline under contract with MDOT.

“Every year, despite the flashing lights, poor driver behavior near snowplows leads to collisions that can be deadly,” Power said. “To minimize these dangers, motorists must keep their focus on driving and changes in road conditions.”

The Huron County Road Commission offers the following reminders for motorists:

- ❖ Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks;
- ❖ Pay close attention at intersections (*never pull up closely behind a snowplow*), snowplows may need to back up to clean out an intersection;
- ❖ Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck;
- ❖ Distracted driving is dangerous driving. Motorists should not text or talk on cell phones while they are behind the wheel. In fact, texting while driving is illegal in Michigan;

- ❖ Motorists should never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new, wing-plow technology, the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash; and
- ❖ Always wear your safety belt and allow extra time to reach your destinations this winter. “Remember to give road crews room to work so we can clear the roads as quickly and safely as possible,” Power added, “Don't Crowd the Plow!”

Remember – in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow

Photos and safety tips are available at www.micountyroads.org/winter.php