

Redwood County Highway Department

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REDWOOD COUNTY SNOW & ICE CONTROL PUBLIC COOPERATION NEEDED

With the onset of winter looming before us, it is time to remind area residents of the importance of cooperation with the Highway Department to insure safe, efficient snow removal operations during periods of inclement weather. In recent years, Redwood County has been fortunate in that no snowplows have been involved in serious accidents; mostly due to the cooperation of motorists in allowing plow operators room to work. The Highway Department's primary goal this winter is to keep motorists moving safely on County Roads. That means adopting safe winter driving habits and giving snow plow operators room to do their jobs.

During winter storms, motorists are reminded:

- Reduce speed. Snowplows travel slower than other vehicles.
- Be patient. Never drive into a snow cloud.
- Be certain which lane a snow plow and its blade are in before attempting to pass.
- Be alert. Assume snowplow drivers do not see you.
- An average car weighs 3000 pounds. An average snow plow weighs 50,000 pounds! Approach with caution.
- Heed published road conditions and visibility reports.
- Plowing, pushing or shoveling snow onto public roads is illegal. This causes additional buildup due to drifting and is a traffic hazard. See attached State Statute.
- All emergency calls during storms should be directed through the "911" emergency system.

Your understanding and cooperation with the County Highway Workers during snow removal operations would be most appreciated.

Nicholas Klisch, P.E.
County Engineer

Road Condition Information Sources

Mn/DOT General - 511 or www.511mn.org	Dist. 7A Mankato	1-800-657-3747 507-304-6100
Dist. 7B Windom 1-800-542-0220	Dist. 8A Willmar	1-800-657-3792 320-231-5195
Dist. 8B Marshall 1-800-657-3748 507-537-6146	Dist. 8C Hutchinson	1-800-657-3748

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160.2715 RIGHT-OF-WAY USE; MISDEMEANORS.

(a) Except for the actions of the road authorities, their agents, employees, contractors, and utilities in carrying out their duties imposed by law or contract, and except as herein provided, it shall be unlawful to:

- (1) obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon;
- (2) plow or perform any other detrimental operation within the road right-of-way except in the preparation of the land for planting permanent vegetative cover or as authorized under section 160.232;
- (3) erect a fence on the right-of-way of a trunk highway, county state-aid highway, county highway, or town road, except to erect a lane fence to the ends of a livestock pass;
- (4) erect or reconstruct driveway headwalls in or on the right-of-way of a highway or road, except as may be allowed by permit from the road authority imposing reasonable regulations as are necessary to prevent interference with the construction, maintenance, and safe use of the highway or road and its appurtenances;
- (5) dig any holes in any highway, except to locate markers placed to identify sectional corner positions and private boundary corners;
- (6) remove any earth, gravel, or rock from any highway;
- (7) obstruct any ditch draining any highway or drain any noisome materials into any ditch;
- (8) place or maintain any building or structure within the limits of any highway;
- (9) place or maintain any advertisement within the limits of any highway, except as provided in section 160.27, subdivision 7;
- (10) paint, print, place, or affix any advertisement or any object within the limits of any highway, except as provided in section 160.27, subdivision 7;
- (11) deface, mar, damage, or tamper with any structure, work, material, equipment, tools, signs, markers, signals, paving, guardrails, drains, or any other highway appurtenance on or along any highway;
- (12) remove, injure, displace, or destroy right-of-way markers, or reference or witness monuments, or markers placed to preserve section or quarter-section corners;
- (13) improperly place or fail to place warning signs and detour signs as provided by law;
- (14) drive over, through, or around any barricade, fence, or obstruction erected for the purpose of preventing traffic from passing over a portion of a highway closed to public travel or to remove, deface, or damage any such barricade, fence, or obstruction.

(b) Any violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

History: 1959 c 500 art 1 s 27; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1980 c 435 s 1; 1980 c 533 s 2; 1986 c 398 art 27 s 2; 1986 c 435 s 1; 1989 c 179 s 2; 1995 c 23 s 1; 1998 c 283 s 1; 2004 c 295 art 2 s 15