



SNOW PLOW SAFETY

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – COLD WEATHER

November 2022

A sometimes unwelcome side effect of living in Western New York is snow. Every plow truck driver plays a critical role in ensuring the streets are kept clear for emergency vehicles and the public. Ensuring that the job of clearing snow is done safely is everyone's job.

- Know your route and be aware of your surroundings. Mailboxes, fence posts, signs, catch basins and potholes are all hazards that can ruin your workday.
- Be patient and tolerant of drivers and pedestrians. We are all trying to work through dealing with the snow together. Always anticipate that a driver or pedestrian will do the unexpected when approached by a large vehicle.
- Remember! Plow trucks are not immune from the effects of ice on the road. Watch your speed and exercise caution when driving on icy and snow covered roads.
- Wear your seatbelt and obey all traffic laws!
- If you must exit your vehicle, be aware of the surface you are stepping onto. Ice is easily concealed under snow and on top of dark asphalt. Falls from height, especially on slippery surfaces, is a common workplace injury!
- Try to get a good night's rest prior to going out to plow. While this is sometimes impossible to do, make sure you are not too drowsy or sleepy to operate heavy machinery. The last thing anyone wants to do is get in an accident or make a fatal mistake due to sleep deprivation.



REMEMBER: AS A PLOW DRIVER YOU ARE A CRITICAL COMPONENT TO KEEPING THE STREETS CLEAR AND SAFE