ND DOT : Be Smart. Don’t Crowd the Plow

In North Dakota there is plenty of opportunity to travel in snowy conditions. It’s important to remember that winter travel can be dangerous. The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) offers tips for sharing the road with snowplows.

* **Stay back** at least five car lengths behind the plow, far from the snow fog. Snowplow operators will pull over when it is safe to do so to allow traffic build-up to pass.

* **Stay alert** as snowplows turn or exit frequently and often with little warning. They may also travel over centerlines or partially into traffic to further improve road conditions.

* **Slow down** and drive according to the conditions. Most winter crashes are caused by driving too fast for conditions. Snowplows typically move at slower speeds.

* **Know where the snowplow is** on multi-lane roadways. The snowplow could be in either lane or on the shoulder.

* **Be extremely cautious** when passing a snowplow. They can be moved sideways by snow drifts and hard snow pack.

* **Never drive through** ‘white-outs’ or ‘snow fog’ caused by cross winds or plowing snow. Wait until you can see.

* **Watch** for plow trucks on interstate ramps and ‘authorized vehicle only’ cross-overs.

* **Turn on your headlights** as this will increase your visibility to other motorists and snowplow operators. Remove snow from your vehicle that could cover your tail lights.

* **Be patient** and remember that snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip.

* **Don’t assume** you will have good traction because the road looks sanded. The sand can sink into the snow pack leaving a slick surface.

* **Never** use cruise control on wet or icy roadways.

It is also important to know North Dakota law. Any person who, by reason of careless driving, causes and inflicts injury to an operator of snow removal equipment or damage to snow removal equipment in excess of $1000, is guilty of an infraction. The maximum penalty is a $500 fine and six points on your drivers license.

Be smart, be safe, and don’t crowd the plow.
Baseline Safety training is a mandatory training for all NDSU employees—faculty, staff and student employees. If you are a supervisor, it is mandatory that you take both Supervisor Safety Training and Baseline Safety Training. Both courses must be completed on an annual basis and are available online or as in-person trainings.

In-person trainings for Baseline Safety and Supervisor Safety are scheduled for March 2020 in the Memorial Union, Hidatsa Room.

Please register in advance:

Baseline Safety Training
Monday, March 2, 2020
1:30 – 2:30 pm
Hidatsa Room

Supervisor Safety Training
Monday, March 2, 2020
2:30 – 3:30 pm
Hidatsa Room

Baseline Safety Training
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
9:00 – 10:00 am
Hidatsa Room

Supervisor Safety Training
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
10:00 – 11:00 am
Hidatsa Room

The Safety Office will provide in-person trainings for groups/departments upon request. The training(s) may be completed either by attending an in-person training or completing the online training module. For more information about the online training courses see:

https://www.ndsu.edu/policy_safety/annual_notices_and_training/.

NDSU provides a Track Training application to assist employees and supervisors with training compliance. For more information visit: https://apps.ndsu.edu/track_training/

NDSU participates in the North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance (WSI), also known as workers’ compensation, and ND OMB/Risk Management Programs (RMP). As such, NDSU is required to comply with the requirements of the "Designated Medical Provider," "Immediate Reporting Policy," and "Annual Notice of Policies Covered under the ND Risk Management Program" provisions.

All employees – staff, faculty and student employees including any part-time, temporary or seasonal positions are required to know their NDSU policies as well as cooperate with the policies and procedures for incident reporting and workers’ compensation. If you haven’t already done so, please log into the NDSU training site and complete your Annual Notice of Policies/Designated Medical Provider process. Doing so will help protect your rights in the event of a work related injury or incident and document that you understand the procedures.
NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to: Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu.

Seasonal Safety Reminder

As winter returns, the Safety Office wants to remind all employees to be extra cautious when walking outdoors. Melting and freezing can create icy paths. Please give yourself extra time to get where you need to go. Many incidents occur when we are in a hurry or running late. Make sure to wear proper footwear, take smaller steps, and stay aware of your surroundings. It is important that we all stay extra cautious during this time of the year.

If you do come across areas that are particularly icy, fill out a Near Miss report and contact the proper department such as Facilities Management or the building custodial staff to make them aware of the icy location. Remember to be proactive and report those areas that pose a potential slip and fall hazard. It is up to each one of us to keep our employees safe.