

Driving a snowplow is hard work. It requires driving for long hours in the worst conditions. While you are concerned with providing safe travel for motorists, you must not overlook your own safety.

Here are a few tips to make your work safer:



- Start work physically and mentally rested and properly clothed.



- Check all equipment before each use. Inspect the lights, brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, plow bolts and chains, spreader and auger, flares and other safety equipment.



- Know your route. Perform pre-storm route inspection observing landmarks and the locations of possible hazards (guardrails, curbs, railroad tracks, bridge joints, mailboxes, manhole covers, etc.) which may be hidden by falling or plowed snow.



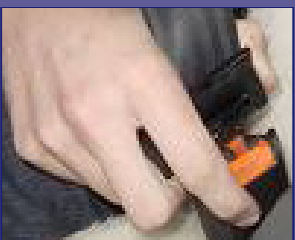
- Choose the speed appropriate for conditions. Resist the urge to get the job done in a hurry.



- 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 and other emergencies when possible.



- Observe all traffic laws and signal your intentions clearly. Remember to wear your seatbelt.



- Before leaving the cab, set the brakes and disengage the power to the spreader and snowplow.



- Watch for signs of fatigue. Staring for hours at the driving snow can have a hypnotizing effect on drivers. The long hours and stress can take their toll 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. You don't want this to happen!!

Take care of yourself by observing these few tips and keep your shift a safe one.