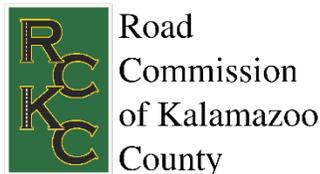


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Date: December 8, 2016

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**Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
Winter Maintenance Operations Update
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE**

Kalamazoo, MI

When winter weather affects road conditions, our goal is to provide safe traveling conditions. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County provides 24 hour coverage for snow removal. Drivers will continuously work on our snow routes, primary roads and through local roads. With over 1,266 miles of roads this will take time. Various issues impede winter maintenance including abandoned vehicles, vehicles parked in roadways, blowing and drifting snow, and cold temperatures. The RCKC will use green lights alongside its amber lights to further alert you to maintenance vehicles in adverse weather conditions to improve visibility of its maintenance vehicles. When you see green lights on these vehicles, the RCKC is reminding you to please use caution, slow down and allow for safe operations during road maintenance activities.

Unfortunately, we do not have a specific time frame as to when roads will be cleared; it will depend on winter maintenance conditions as we continue to work within our priority system. Our staff monitors roads cleared to ensure all roads are plowed and not missed accordingly.

We thank you for your patience as we work to get everyone plowed out as quickly as possible.

Reminders:

The priorities for our winter maintenance are;

Designated snow route roads,

balance of primary roads,

through local roads,

subdivision or plat streets, PLEASE assist in ensuring vehicles are not parked in roadways.

and dead-end and cul-de-sac roads.

One important fact has not changed, road crews must have ample room in order to safely clear the many miles of roadway of snow and ice. "Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

The RCKC offer the following reminders for motorists:

- **Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks**
- **Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck**
- **Please remove vehicles from roadways for the safety of the public and our drivers**
- **Please monitor placement of garbage cans when plowing has not yet occurred**
- **To remain focused on driving, motorists should not text or talk on cell phones while they are behind the wheel**
- **Motorist 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. Motorist 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.**
- **Always wear your safety belt and allow extra time to reach your destinations this winter.**

Remember – in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!

Help us also educate the children on the risks presented by snowplows and the dangers of playing on the high piles of snow and ice that are near the roadway during snow removal –

- **Please KEEP THE CHILDREN AWAY from roadside piles of snow**
- **Don't build snow forts, make tunnels, or play in or on snow banks next to roads**
- **Keep away from the edge of the roadway as you wait for the school bus, get the mail, or watch the plow trucks**
- **Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snow plow is approaching**
- **Hidden objects under the snow, when thrown by the plow truck could cause serious injury**
- **Keep sleds and toys away from the roadways at all times**

REMINDERS:

- ***Please assist in shoveling out fire hydrants and mailbox addresses***
- ***MCL 257.677a prohibits pushing snow and ice onto, or across roadways and requires that people do not obstruct the safety vision of motorists.***

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