

Fast Facts – Snowplow Safety

The Snow Zone

- Blading snow off the road creates a “mini blizzard” next to and behind the snowplow, especially in windy conditions. This is referred to as the SNOW ZONE.
- It can be difficult to see snow removal equipment within the Snow Zone. Treat snow plows the same as you would an emergency vehicle. If they are pulled over and have their lights flashing, slow to 60 km/h and pass with caution.
- When you encounter a snowplow on the highway, your visibility may be limited. Slow down and drive with caution. If a snowplow is driving and has their light flashing, pass them whenever safe to do so.
- The blue lights are on whenever the plow is engaged in winter activity. This can include surveying, sanding, salting, plowing, etc.
- Snowplows pull over every 10 to 15 km to let vehicles pass. Take your time, be patient and safe.
- Snowplows pull over about every 10 km to allow motorists to pass, so take your time, wait and be safe.
- Snowplows stop at all railway crossings to ensure it is safe to cross and that the plow blade will clear the track.
- Snowplow operators are often out in treacherous conditions to make the highways as safe as possible for you – not to get in your way. It is up to you to be cautious and drive safely in the Snow Zone.
- Every winter, snowplows are hit by motorists that don’t see them or see them too late. The vast majority of these accidents are rear-end collision incidents where motorists have not driven with caution in the snow zone.