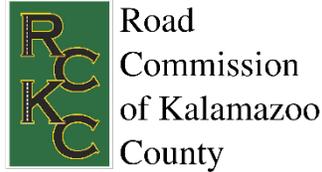


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Date: November 26, 2018

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Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

WET HEAVY SNOW EVENT

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE



Kalamazoo, MI-

Wet, heavy snow and high winds impact winter maintenance efforts today. Please proceed with continued caution today as there are many leaning branches and trees down in the roadway impacting travel and winter maintenance efforts. The wet, heavy snow and wind cause tree branches and trees to be compromised potentially falling in roadways. We have many reports of trees down throughout the Kalamazoo County, some of which may require the assistance of utility providers before we can continue our winter maintenance activities. Our crews who would be providing winter maintenance, must also remove trees from the traveled portion of the roadway for the safety of the traveling public and for our crews. **Please be patient and know our RCKC team is working hard to respond to this event, our goal is to provide safe traveling conditions.** Also, with the wet, heavy snow mailboxes may also be impacted. RCKC regrets any damage to mailboxes and/or supports that occurs as a result of road maintenance activities. By law, the RCKC has no legal responsibility for personal property claims while in the course of its governmental function. The RCKC will not assume responsibility for mailbox or snow shield damage that may be caused by snow/ice that is being plowed from the roadway.

The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) provides 24 hour coverage for snow removal. **As winter conditions persist we continue to work on our snow routes, primary roads and through local roads.** With over 1,268 miles of roads this will take time. Various issues impede winter maintenance including trees, abandoned vehicles, vehicles parked in roadways, blowing and drifting snow, and cold temperatures.

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 in advance for your patience as we work to get everyone plowed out safely and as quickly as possible.

Learn more about our winter maintenance operations by visiting our website: [RCKC Winter Maintenance](#)

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 offers the following reminders for motorists:

- **Watch for fallen trees in the roadway.**
- **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 attempting 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.**
- **Keep a look out for our equipment with green and amber lights.**

Remember – in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!

With many schools closed today, 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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