



www.bcmsa.ca

NOVEMBER *Safety Talk*

Topic: Safety Tips for Snow and Ice Maintenance

Municipalities are under intense pressure during snow and ice conditions to maintain the highest levels of service during the worst weather. Working in these conditions poses serious safety issues for those involved in snow and ice control.



Statistics show that snow and ice control-related accidents involve both new and experienced drivers. Therefore, it's important that all drivers receive refresher training.

1. Truck/equipment readiness

An effective preventative maintenance program is the key to ensuring that your equipment is ready to take on snow and ice control.

Always do a walk around inspection before operating the machine, and perform and record the pre-trip inspection.

Before moving the machine, always test to make sure the back-up alarm works and is loud enough to be heard over the normal noise of the machine.

2. Driver readiness

Be prepared for cold weather.

After all, if you are performing snow and ice control, it's cold! Even though you may be inside a warm cab, you still need to be prepared for the cold weather when you exit the cab. Be sure to dress appropriately by wearing layers of warm clothing with good wicking properties and proper ventilation. Protect your hands, feet and head from the cold.

Well rested drivers are key to accident prevention. Compound a fatigued driver with poor weather conditions and disasters can happen. All drivers should be made aware of the causes and symptoms of driver fatigue and how to prevent it. Appropriate driver scheduling will help to prevent fatigue issues.

3. Safe vehicle access and egress

Climbing into the cab can be difficult especially when the steps are slippery with snow and ice. Remember to use the 3-point contact when climbing into/exiting the cab.

4. Plan for snow removal

There are a few key steps to keeping staff and the public safe during snow and ice control.

Before snow removal begins, you need to plan where and how you will pile the snow (assuming you won't be blowing it and trucking it away). Always move the snow to an area

that will not block the visibility of pedestrians or traffic. Avoid piling snow on an incline; always visualize where the water from the melted snow is going to go.

Every jobsite will have some obstructions, such as fire hydrants. Mark all obstructions prior to the plowing season.

You should keep snow piles a minimum of 3 feet away from all sides of hydrants or any fire department connection.

Drainage areas should also be marked prior to the plowing season and kept clear to ensure melting snow and ice will not cause any other hazards.

