

What can you do to help when it snows?

- Remove vehicles from streets during and after snow falls.
- Be willing to shovel around your mailbox and at the end of your driveway after the MCRC plow comes by.
- During or shortly after snow falls, do not place garbage cans in the road. It is sometimes impossible to plow roads lined with garbage cans.
- Rocks at the edge of the road, installed in-ground sprinkler heads or other personal property are not allowed within the road right-of-way. When it snows, our drivers can't see these, and they are often pushed onto the lawn, causing damage to both your lawn and the equipment. The MCRC is *not responsible* for damage to personal property located in the road right-of-way.

PLOWING SUBDIVISION ROADS

The Monroe County Road Commission prides itself on its ability to promptly plow its roads following a normal snow fall. However, following a major snow storm (six or more inches of snow in less than 24 hours), subdivision streets in townships may not be plowed for a few days.



Subdivision roads typically carry less traffic than other roads, and the traffic is typically slower than on major roads. Motorist safety concerns

dictate that roads with high traffic volumes and high speeds are the top priority.

Additionally, since we cannot plow all roads at the same time, it would not make sense to plow subdivisions roads first. If the main roads were not plowed, drivers would not be able to get anywhere.

Also, if emergency vehicles cannot get around on the main roads, it does them no good to be able to drive on the subdivision streets.

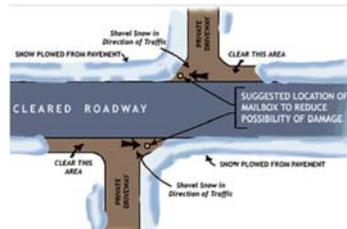
A GOOD SHAKE COULD SAVE YOUR MAILBOX

Each winter, mailboxes are damaged during winter maintenance operations. More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. If you can shake your mailbox, it probably needs maintenance. Take time during the summer months to make any repairs needed so your mailbox will be strong enough to survive the winter. Proper maintenance may help to prevent damage that results in delayed mail delivery, or worse, having to make alternate delivery arrangements.

Shake Your Mailbox Day is a joint effort between your county road commission and the U.S. Postal Service.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Your mailbox is in the road right of way, and is allowed by road commissioner as a convenience to you.
- Check with your local road commission and the US postal Service for rules and requirements with respect to the construction and placement of your mailbox.
- Flying snow makes it look like snow plow trucks are traveling much faster than they are, but the average speed of travel is about 25 m.p.h. Even at this speed, the force of the snow being pushed off the road can damage mailboxes and other roadside items.
- Contact your local road commission if your mailbox is damaged by winter maintenance operations.



In addition to making sure your mailbox is strong enough to survive Winter, clearing snow to the right of your driveway will help reduce the amount of snow deposited in your drive and against the mailbox post during winter maintenance.

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE



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WINTER CONDITIONS

Winter road maintenance is a top priority for the Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC). The MCRC is responsible for over 1,500 miles of roads. This keeps our Maintenance Division very busy as MCRC crews strive to keep roads clear and passable throughout the winter. The Road Commission has a fleet of 30 trucks, 3 graders, and 2 smaller plow trucks ready 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the winter.

RUSH-HOUR STORMS

The storms likely to cause the most inconvenience for drivers are those that strike during or just before the rush hour. Salting in advance does little good. That means that during rush hour storms, MCRC trucks are battling the same traffic as other motorists, as they attempt to plow or salt, which significantly slows the road clearing efforts.



SAFETY FIRST

If you are driving during inclement weather and you see a salt truck or snow plow, **USE CARE**. MCRC drivers are specially trained to drive salt trucks and snow plows, but the trucks are larger than most vehicles, so the drivers may not be able to see behind them and they take longer to stop and need more room to turn.

Please give them plenty of room to do their jobs.



REMOVAL PRIORITIES

MCRC does not now, and probably never will, have enough equipment or manpower to clear all of its roads at the same time. In fact, if we invested the amount of money required to acquire the equipment and staff necessary to plow all our roads immediately following a major snow storm, we would not be able to do much of the other necessary road maintenance activities.

Additionally, it would not be fiscally responsible to acquire staff and equipment to be able to respond instantly to the type of snow storm that occurs only once every few years. Priorities are determined by the amount of traffic use on the roads. Those with the greatest traffic volume are considered the main concern and are plowed using the following priority list:

1. **State Highways**— roads such as I-75, US-23, or M-50.
2. **Primary Roads**—defined in red on the county map
3. **Local Paved Roads**— defined in gray on the county map.
4. **Subdivisions**
5. **Stone Roads** - defined in white on the county map.



POINTS TO PONDER

- We would like to remind everyone that children should not be allowed to play on snow drifts near the road for safety's sake.



- **SLOW DOWN!** Most snow or ice related accidents are caused by driving at speeds too fast for present road conditions.

- Please be sure to install mailboxes outside the shoulder or beyond the curb, and to keep your box and post in good condition. The Road Commission will only provide replacement boxes hit by the **snow plow**, not by ice or snow.



- At temperatures below 20 degrees, salt begins to lose its effectiveness. At 0 degrees, salt does virtually nothing.
- The Monroe County Road Commission uses sand sparingly on paved roads because it clogs storm drains and doesn't melt ice and damages equipment.
- The MCRC spent \$2.1 million during the 2010-2011 season through March 2011 on winter maintenance, with no lasting road improvements to show for it. A light dusting of snow can also be costly to the MCRC—even if residents don't have to shovel their driveways, the Road Commission still has to salt the roads.



- Monroe County Road Commission funding comes directly from the Michigan gas tax, and indirectly from County and Township government by their participation in the county road system.