

## SNOW FIGHTER SAFETY

The main purpose of snow and ice removal is, of course, to provide safe travel for motorists. In doing this, those in maintenance must not overlook their own safety; neither must they overlook the possibility that in trying to provide safe roads and streets, they may be creating another safety hazard.

As a snow fighter you need to become familiar with a few “do’s and don’ts” that can make your work far safer:

- Do check all equipment before each use. Make sure lights, brakes, windshield wipers, exhaust systems, tires, chains, and steering are safe. Don’t leave the yard without having done those pre-trip inspections.
- Do promptly report all mechanical trouble. Don’t expect that a problem will magically disappear if you ignore it.
- Do remember that speed can kill, especially in a snowstorm and at night.
- Do resist the urge to get the job done in a hurry. Short-cuts cost people’s lives.
- Do respect the rights of others. Be considerate of motorists who have trouble driving in snow; report stranded motorists when possible.
- Do keep first aid kits completely stocked.
- Check fire extinguishers and flares often.
- Do observe traffic laws.
- Don’t drive distracted.
- Do watch for signs of fatigue in equipment operators.



Maintenance people typically feel a keen obligation to the traveling public. Proper training for maintenance personnel is vital. It provides the know-how to get the job done and encouragement to perform in a way that brings praise rather than discredit to your organization. They are also crucial to ensuring efficient and effective operations. If an operator does not understand how the tools at their disposal work – how can they be effective?

The purpose of training is to assure that:

- Equipment operators fully understand how to operate and maintain plows, spreaders, loaders, and other equipment used for winter maintenance.
- All employees are thoroughly familiar with their responsibilities.
- All employees receive a full review of snow removal schedules, snow routes, and personnel and equipment assignments.
- Dry-runs are made over areas to be covered during actual Snow fighting operations.
- All employees understand how salt works in snow and ice, so they know how, when, and in what amounts it should be applied (if applicable).

### Call to Action:

Register today for the upcoming (Dec.14 – West Fargo, Dec.16 – Dickinson) NDLTAP Winter Maintenance for Local Roads training.

<https://www.ndltap.org/events/view.php?id=1019>

Visit the NDLTAP website – Resources page to access many resources for Snow and Ice Control/Winter Maintenance:

<https://www.ndltap.org/resources/snow/>



Visit the Clear Roads website - Clear Roads is a national research consortium focused on rigorous testing of winter maintenance materials, equipment and methods for use by highway maintenance crews.

<https://clearroads.org/>

Short-course learning on Winter Maintenance – Snow and Ice Control. The Transportation Learning Network (TLN) has self-paced learning modules you can access any time. Most of these modules are 1 hour in length. Just sign-in to your Learning Management System (LMS) account <https://tln.learnflex.net/users/index.aspx> click on the self-paced learning, in the search box and type Winter Maintenance or Snow and Ice Control. Here are a few results of self-paced learning modules:

- TC3/SICOP Winter Maintenance Management
- TC3/SICOP Performance Measures for Snow and Ice Control Operation
- TC3/SICOP Blowing Snow Mitigation



*Safety Talks are published by NDLTAP in cooperation with the National Local Technical Assistance Association and participating partner organizations.*





Safety Talk Sign-in Sheet Topic:  
**Snow Fighter Safety**

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor/Talk Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

Signature

1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____