



The BLOTTER

Your place for up to date Police information

Safe Winter Driving Tips-

We have been hit with a couple significant snow falls so far this winter and this has presented struggles for some on area roads. It is important to refresh our memories when it comes to navigating roads in the winter months.

Some things we need to check before the snow hits are our vehicles. We need to make sure that we have adequate tires, plenty of washer fluid and good windshield wipers before we head out. Also consider putting a small shovel, warm blankets and other items together as a sort of "survival kit" should you get stuck.

Before heading out, check road conditions and weather forecasts to see how the day will go. Many times it may be nice when you leave the house, but then downright terrible on your commute home.

Please remember to drive safely, leave plenty of following distance, slow down, and stay alert. In addition, extra caution should be used on bridges, ramps, roundabouts, and other intersections as they tend to ice-up quicker than other segments of the roadway.

Snowplow drivers are well trained, but motorists should be patient, stay back from the plow and only pass when it is safe to do so. Snowplows travel slower than the posted speeds because it is most effective for clearing roads. Operators' ability to see behind them is restricted behind the truck so they must rely on mirrors to see to the rear and side of the truck.

Here are some other recommendations for safe driving around snowplows:

- **Stay alert** for snowplows, which turn frequently and often with little warning. They also may travel over centerlines or partially in traffic to further improve road conditions.
- **Stay back** behind the plow. Don't drive into a snow cloud.
- **Slow down** to a safe speed for current conditions.

- **Turn on your headlights and wear your seat belt.**
- **Turn off the cruise control.**
- **Be patient** and remember snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip.
- **Don't drive distracted.**

Graffiti... a way to solve cases -

We all know how annoying and destructive graffiti can be. It can be an eyesore on a pristine building, and costly to remove and repair depending on the surface. In general these can be difficult cases to investigate and eventually charge criminally, but we have had success recently.

Two of the three cases were referred to me via email and another was an example of great work by your Patrol Officers downtown. The cases that were referred to me occurred at a property near Lake Avenue and Superior Street and the Transit Center. In both cases it was great, clear camera footage that was used to identify the suspects. I have always said and continue to stress the importance of a great camera system!!

The third case was reported to 911 when a male was witnessed spray painting in a closed parking ramp. Officers were able to sneak into the ramp, observe the male spray painting and identify him. The owner of the ramp was contacted and charges are pending. This was a great example of the community and Police Department working together to solve an issue. We could not have asked for this to go any better.

