

Winter driving in North Dakota can be dangerous. Making smart decisions may help save your life. Be smart this winter, remember to:

- Keep your gas tank full
- Turn on your head lights
- Carry a winter survival kit
- Be careful on icy bridges
- Stay with your vehicle
- Use your seat belts,

**And...**



Remember, snowplow operators are there to help make the winter driving conditions safer for you. If an emergency does occur, here are some things that snowplow operators can and cannot do to help you:

Snowplow operators **can**:

- Offer first aid
- Call for help
- Let you sit in the plow truck to keep warm
- Offer other general assistance

Snowplow operators **cannot**:

- Pull your vehicle out of a ditch
- Give you a ride

## North Dakota Law

### Striking Snow Removal Equipment

Any person who, by reason of careless driving, causes and inflicts injury to an operator of snow removal equipment or damage to snow removal equipment in excess of \$1,000, is guilty of an infraction. The maximum penalty is a \$500 fine and six points on your drivers license.

### Road Closure

Law enforcement may close a road temporarily due to hazardous conditions for the protection and safety of the public. No person shall enter a closed road under these conditions. Going around a road closure gate can result in a \$250 fine.

## Snow and Ice Control Facts

*Did you know...*

- One pound of salt melts 46.3 pounds of ice at 30 degrees Fahrenheit, 8.6 pounds of ice at 20°F. and only 3.7 pounds of ice at zero.
  - > Salt mixtures and application rates are adjusted based on the pavement temperatures and forecasts.
  - > Sand is used to provide initial traction as the salt and plows work to remove snow and ice from the roadway.
- Solid rock salt needs to form into a solution to begin the ice melting process.
  - > Liquid salt brine is added to granular salt/sand mix to 'jump start' the ice melting process. This is called pre-wetting.
  - > Straight liquid salt brine is also applied directly to the roadway surface prior to the onset of a storm event as a bond breaker to help remove the snow and ice layer more quickly. This is called pre-treating or anti-icing.

**NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

[www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov)

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2011

MTC1011

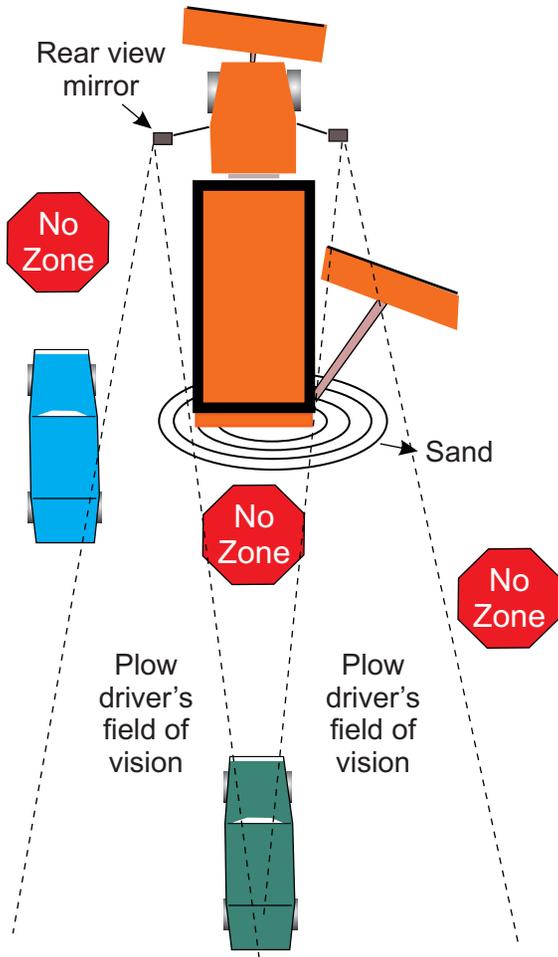
# BE SMART



# DON'T CROWD THE PLOW

**NDDOT**  
North Dakota  
Department of Transportation

# “NO ZONE” FOR SNOWPLOWS



## STAY BACK - STAY ALIVE

Snowplows have poor visibility to the rear and blind spots at the rear, both sides, and at mirror and door positions. Remember to stay out of the plow's **NO ZONE**. It could save your life!

## Tips for Sharing the Road With Snowplows

- **Stay back** at least five car lengths behind the plow, far from the snowfog; snowplow operators will pull over when it is safe to do so to allow traffic build-up to pass.
- **Stay alert** as snowplows turn or exit frequently and often with little warning. They may also travel over centerlines or partially into traffic to further improve road conditions.
- **Slow down** and drive according to the conditions. Most winter crashes are caused by driving too fast for conditions. Snowplows typically move at slower speeds.
- **Know where the snowplow is** on multi-lane roadways. The snowplow could be in either lane or on the shoulder.
- **Be extremely cautious** when passing a snowplow. They can be moved sideways by snow drifts and hard snow pack.
- **Never drive through “white-outs” or “snow-fog”** caused by cross winds or plowing snow. Wait until you can see.
- **Watch** for plow trucks on interstate ramps and “authorized vehicle only” cross-overs.
- **Turn on your head lights** as this will increase your visibility to other motorists and snowplow operators. Remove snow from your vehicle that could cover your tail lights.
- **Be patient** and remember that snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip.
- **Don't assume** you will have good traction because the road looks sanded. The sand can sink into the snow pack leaving a slick surface.
- **Never** use cruise control on wet or icy roadways.

## ND 511 Travel Information

ND 511 is a free phone service motorists can use to access information needed to travel safely.

- Service is available from any phone 24 hours a day.
- Receive timely updates on:
  - > Winter road conditions
  - > Weather forecast information
  - > Workzone information



### Instructions on Using 511

- Call 511 (listen for instructions)
- Select route
- Select road segment for road information

*It's that simple!*

### Travel information is also available on the NDDOT Web site!

- Road conditions
- Workzones
- Load restrictions
- Location-specific 24-hour weather forecasts
- National Weather Service radar images
- Winter travel tips
- Incidents
- Warnings
- Camera images

### To access this information...

- Go to [www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov) and
- Scroll down to Travel and click on “more travel...”

