

Snowplow Safety

Be aware while out on Alberta's highways



You may have heard the popular rhyme: "Amber and red, snowplow ahead", and while snowy weather descends upon Alberta, it's important to remember that rhyme, and other safe practices surrounding snowplows on our highways.

According to the Alberta Government, almost 700 snowplows and other snow removal equipment work to keep Alberta's highways clear and open to the motoring public. "Snowplow operators clear roads whenever there are [three] or more [centimetres] of snow, or when highways become icy," states alberta.ca. "Snowplows make the roads safer, and less slippery, to travel. They also inspect roads and file road reports to 511 Alberta so Albertans can plan their travel."

When approaching a snowplow

- Give the snowplow ample space to do their job until they are able to pull over or you are able to safely pass.
- Often snowplows will be in a reduced visibility situation kicking up snow, approach slowly and if you decrease your speed substantially, turn on your hazards.
- Never pass a snowplow on the right, that is the location of the snow blade and it can be obscured by snow and other debris.



See reverse 

Snowplow statistics

In data collected by the ARHCA Safety Committee between March 28, 2018 and October 4, 2019, comprised of numbers from seven different snowplow companies:

- 50** plows were rear-ended
- 5** plows experienced some other sort of contact
- 64** plows experienced a near-miss on the road



Snowplow facts

From a report put together by the Alberta Government titled "Technology Improves Safety on Alberta's Highways":

- Many newer snowplows have side wings and large hoppers for additional plowing and sanding capacities. This helps complete highway maintenance faster, while also improving safety.
- About half of the snowplow fleet has been equipped with pre-wetting devices to help sanding operations make highway conditions safer.

Resources

Contact information for Alberta's Highway Operations:

- Hours: 8:15 am - 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday)
- Phone: 780-644-5520
- Email: trans.highwayoperations@gov.ab.ca

Whenever starting out on a trip, be sure to consult Alberta 511 for road conditions.

Click for more information:



Contact information:

AMTA Calgary 1-800-267-1003 AMTA Edmonton 1-877-448-7456
info@amta.ca

