

## **NICOLLET COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**

*From the desks of: Denise Wright – Director*

*Windy Block – Assist Director*

Now that the winter's snow has arrived we would like to remind our citizens of a few  
**"SNOWPLOW SMARTS"**

### **SEE ORANGE-STAY BACK AND STAY ALIVE**

During the winter there are many vehicle crashes involving snow removal equipment. Most of these crashes could have been avoided if drivers would give the plow driver room to work safely.

When approaching a snowplow keep these important points in mind:

1. Stay behind the snowplow at least 300-500 feet. If you follow too closely to a snowplow when it is sanding or salting the roadway, your vehicle may get pelted with sand and salt.

2. **NEVER** pass a snowplow. Snowplows create artificial snow clouds that may be very dangerous because a various debris that is found in them. It is also difficult to determine which side of the plow is down. If your vehicle strikes the plow, it may cause serious damage to you and/or your vehicle.

3. **NEVER** drive between snowplows. When you see more than one snowplow together it creates an opportunity to clear the roadway faster and safer. But your chance of being in a crash with a snowplow is greatly increased when trying to drive between these teams of snowplows.

4. **ALWAYS** yield to snowplows. The easiest way to convince yourself to yield to a snowplow is the fact that driving conditions behind a snowplow are much better than conditions ahead of it.

5. **ALWAYS** assume that the snowplow driver cannot see you.

6. **NEVER** use the cruise control when traveling near a snowplow. **You** need to maintain full control of your vehicle.

7. **BE PATIENT!!** Ask yourself if the couple of extra minutes you **might** gain by not following these simple snowplow safety guidelines is really worth the risk to your life or someone else's.

**A 3000 pound car is no match for a 50,000 pound snowplow. If you collide with a snowplow, you will probably lose.**

**STAY SAFE-BE AWARE**