

From: Miner, Karen  
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**"Highway Superintendents Issue Winter Driving Advisory"**  
Friday, October 31, 2014

**HORSEHEADS** - As the winter season approaches, Curt Rhodes, President of the Chemung County Town Highway Superintendents' Association, and Andy Avery, Commissioner of Public Works for Chemung County, have issued a winter driving advisory for all Chemung County residents. When the forecast calls for winter weather, they ask residents to be mindful of potentially hazardous road conditions.

*"Driving a vehicle is a complex task requiring your complete attention. Snow and ice conditions add another layer of difficulty," said Avery. "Winter weather provides changing and often unexpected and challenging conditions for drivers."*

It should be noted that a 27% increase in salt prices for the 2014-2015 winter may change the way snow and ice operations are performed. Municipal, County, and State crews alike will review new salting policies to ensure salt supplies match their budgets and last through the winter.

Your highway superintendents urge residents to:

- . Allow yourself
  - . Sufficient travel time. Winter travel generally takes longer.
  - . Extra distance between vehicles and additional stopping time.
- . Note that four-wheel or all-wheel drive vehicles don't decrease braking distance.
- . Always match your speed to the road and weather conditions. Lower volume roads may have less salt applied as compared to previous winters.

As required by law, fully clean off your vehicle before leaving home. Clear vision is a key to good driving. A clean car prevents snow from flying onto an adjacent or trailing vehicle.

- . Be aware of snow plows on the road:
    - . Give them adequate room to operate.
    - . Stay a sufficient distance behind so the operator can see you.
      - Passing a snow plow can be hazardous to you or the plow operator.
    - . Plow operators need your cooperation and consideration.
- Understand that bridge surfaces are often more slippery than the roadway and drive accordingly. Cold air beneath the bridge causes the surface to freeze faster.

- . Follow local parking restrictions to allow efficient clearing of snow from roadways.
- . Mail boxes are generally the responsibility of property owners. All mailboxes should be properly installed.
- . Plowing or shoveling snow from driveways and sidewalks into or across roadways is against New York State law. It creates a hazard for motorists and Public Works employees alike.
- . If possible, wait until after the plows go by before shoveling your driveway entrance. Shovel the snow to the "downstream" side of your driveway. This prevents snow from being plowed back into your driveway.

*"Most importantly, drive safely and courteously. Our highway and public works' departments clear snow and ice as early and safely as feasible," added Rhodes.*

In the event of a winter storm, do not drive unless necessary.