

## Snow Removal/ Winter Driving/ Mailbox Damage

Now that winter is fully upon us, it is important to be reminded of a few things about snow removal capabilities and winter driving:

**Snow Plowing:** Lewis County and the county Towns and Villages work tirelessly and cooperatively to ensure safe and accessible roads as expeditiously as possible under winter driving conditions. We are on call 24/7 during weather events with our crews being dispatched to work on snow removal up to 16+ hours per day during weather events. As you are aware, winter weather conditions change drastically and rapidly from one moment to the next, from one area to another, depending upon the drop in temperature and wind. We cannot and do not guarantee bare or dry roads during weather events - that is cost prohibitive to all of us as taxpayers. We work tirelessly and efficiently to clear the roads to as safe a condition as possible to allow for traffic flow.

**Winter Driving:** The best course of action for anyone traveling our roads during the winter months is to adjust your driving to meet the conditions presented: adjust your speed and slow down; increase vehicle separation; allow for increase in braking distance, including slowing down. If conditions are severe, only travel if absolutely necessary. Carry emergency supplies.

**Plowing events during and after snow:** During and after snow and ice events, highway agencies, in the course of plowing may inadvertently damage a mailbox. Under New York State Law, mailboxes are considered highway obstructions and are only allowed in the right-of-way as a convenience to the owner. The State recognizes that the necessity of keeping the roads open will take precedence over mailbox protection. The highway crews do their best to avoid mailboxes, but oftentimes visibility, oncoming traffic, plow-pushed heavy snow, and improper location of the boxes make this difficult. The best method to protect your mailbox is to ensure it is properly attached to the post at a proper location and to keep the mailbox assembly simple in order to limit the impact surface area for plowed snow.

Please drive safely, be patient and have a Happy New Year!!!!

Lewis County Highway Superintendent

Warren Shaw