

## **Law of Month – January, 2020**

Happy New Year to everyone!

With Wisconsin winter weather in full effect, we have to remember to give snowplow trucks extra room to operate when going down roadways. We also recommend staying off the roads as much as possible when winter storms hit Dodge County. This gives the snowplow trucks space and time to clear the roads for safe travel.

This law of the month will be about giving snowplow drivers room to operate. When snowplow trucks are on the roadways, you are supposed to give them adequate room so they can clear the roads properly. Every snowplow has a sign on the back of their truck to stay 200 feet away. This is for your safety. Collisions between snowplow trucks and other vehicles mainly happen due to people not paying attention or going too fast for conditions. Snowplow trucks may need to operate at a slower speed when clearing roadways. They may also need to stop suddenly to avoid a stranded car or another item in the roadway. Snowplows may also be salting the roadways. This causes salt to be bouncing on the roads as they are plowing. The bouncing salt may bounce up and hit your vehicle causing small dents or damage to your windshield. Please stay 200 feet away from snowplows and give them room to make our roads safe. More so, if you have to travel during a winter storm, please buckle up, slow down and allow extra time to get to your destination safely.

### **State Statute (346.915):**

Requires drivers to stay at least 200 feet behind a snowplow engaged in snow/ice removal upon any highway with a posted speed limit of more than 35 mph.

Violations can result in a \$175 fine and assessment of three demerit points. Being involved in a crash however can have consequences much more serious than a citation.