

News Release  
November 2, 2022  
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## **Highway Maintenance Trucks are Going Green in Dodge County**

The State of Wisconsin legislators recently adopted revisions to statute 347.26 relating to warning lights on highway vehicles. The new provisions are as follows:

347.26 (7) WARNING LAMPS ON CERTAIN HIGHWAY VEHICLES. (intro.) Any vehicle of the department or a county or municipal highway department that by reason of its use upon a highway creates a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing may be equipped with configurations of flashing red, amber, or green lamps.

The basic change is allowing green lights on government-owned highway maintenance vehicles. This provision has been in effect in the State of Michigan already and is proving to be very beneficial. According to Michigan officials the green color can be detected more clearly and brightly by the human eye than traditional amber lighting, which makes it easier to see in heavy snow.

Dodge County Highway Department maintenance vehicles are being converted to flashing green and amber lights to increase driver awareness.

It is important to quickly recognize that highway maintenance operations are in progress in the area and prepare to react accordingly by following these simple but very important steps:

- Slow down immediately.
- Determine if the operation is stationary or rolling.
- Look for and follow any warning signs.
- Hang up the phone. It is illegal to use a handheld phone in a work zone in Wisconsin.
- Watch for and respect flaggers and follow their guidance.
- Obey the posted/reduced speed limit in work zones.
- Pass slower moving grading, mowing or plowing equipment with caution, allowing sufficient room for the operators to perform their duties safely.
- Do not enter or pass through closed roads unless you live or work in the closed area or you have actual business to perform in the closed area. You will not be able to pass through the entire work zone. Closed roads can be dangerous areas. Large moving equipment, stockpiles of material, parked equipment, excavations and missing bridge-type structures are all hazards that should be avoided by obeying closure signs and taking the posted detour routes.

Dodge County drivers are encouraged to watch for and recognize equipment displaying flashing amber and/or green lights as official highway maintenance vehicles performing maintenance work on the highways and react accordingly.

It is also important to note that this statute allows green lights on Government-owned highway maintenance vehicles only.

