

STAYBACK STAYALIVE



The Informed Worker



Volume 15, Issue 12

Dec 2015

www.kasstaffing.com www.hrvision.ca

SNOW PLOW SAFETY

Sharing the road with snowplows can create special challenges for motorists. You can be better prepared by following a few simple tips when you encounter a snowplow:

- Be visible - keep headlights on at all times when travelling.
- Slow down and keep to the right. Snowplows in residential areas move at much slower speeds than other vehicles. On the highway, snowplows may travel as much as 70 km/hr. Operators also frequently stop to clean off their lights.
- Don't pass on the right hand side on undivided highways. Snow and debris exit the plow on the right and pose a severe hazard.
- Be cautious when approaching a snowplow from behind - plows may cause snow clouds that reduce visibility.
- Watch for the flashing amber lights on the back of these vehicles. These lights send a very intense, narrow band of light behind the snowplow that increases its visibility.
- Stay well back until the snowplow operator can safely pull over to let you pass. They will pull over approximately every eight to 12 kilometers and will turn off the sand for vehicles passing whenever possible.
- Don't crowd the plow. Only pass snow removal vehicles when a safe, legal passing area is available and adequately clear of snow and/or treated with salt and sand.
- Don't travel beside a snowplow. They can shift sideways after hitting snow packs or drifts.
- Don't drive through white out conditions caused by swirling snow around a snowplow. Safely pull to the side or slow to allow visibility to improve.
- When a plow approaches you, allow the plow room to operate by reducing speed and moving to the right side of the road if there is room to safely do so.
- Do not brake with unnecessary sudden movements when in front of a snowplow - plows cannot stop as quickly as an automobile

f t /SNOWPLOWSAFETY

SAFETY TIPS

- Be patient and keep a safe distance behind working snow plows.
- Never pass a snow plow.
- Don't crowd the plow.
- Don't drive beside snow plows.
- Move aside. Snow plows often encroach on the centre of the highway to remove snow.
- Beware of reduced visibility.
- Watch for snow plows even on sunny days.

LET US LEAD THE WAY
WWW.SNOWPLOWSAFETY.CA

This campaign is sponsored by the Ontario Road Builders' Association

FATAL ONTARIO 3 VEHICLE CRASH INVOLVES SNOWPLOW—DEC 18, 2014

According to Ontario Provincial Police, one man is dead and two others were injured after a terrible crash in the Town of Georgina involving three vehicles, including a snowplow.

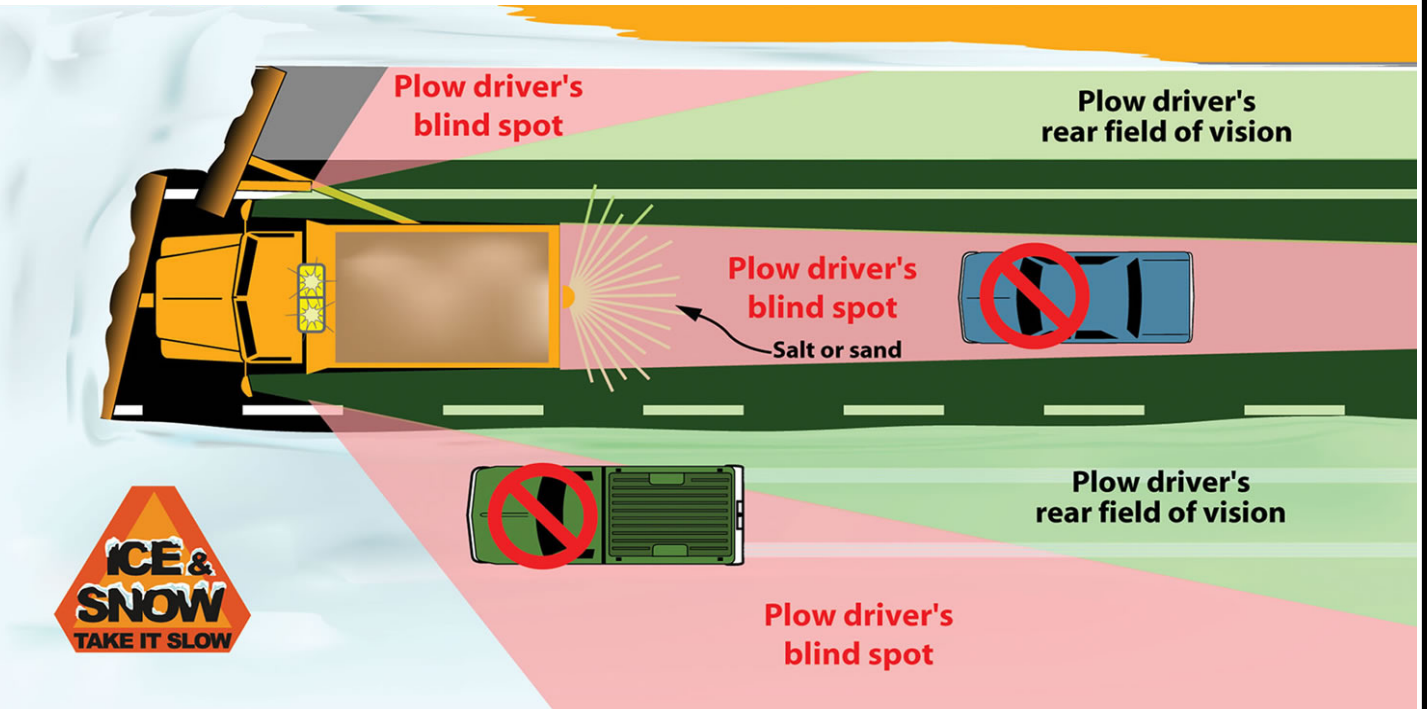
The accident occurred on the afternoon of December 18, when an SUV travelling south on Highway 48 crossed over the line and into the northbound lane. That caused him to clip the blade of a snowplow, which caused him to veer off and hit an oncoming minivan head on.

All three drivers in the crash were injured, and both the SUV driver and snowplow driver were taken to hospital. However the driver of the minivan, who was described by police as a 46-year-old man from nearby Keswick, was fatally injured. Apparently, an air ambulance had been dispatched to the scene, but was subsequently cancelled when he was declared dead at the scene.

After the accident, Highway 48 was closed for hours north of Ravenshoe Road. It was finally reopened shortly after 9 p.m.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, there are approximately 33 accidents every year involving snowplows, which are on the roads trying to make the drive safer. Among the most common reasons for these accidents include attempting to pass the plow, or driving too aggressively for current road conditions. In this case, a number of factors may have been present, including possible distraction on the part of the SUV's driver, or even drowsy driving.

This tragic accident should serve as a reminder that all drivers should be alert and aware at all times, and make room for the snowplow.



KAS Offices Near You

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mississauga 905-677-3307 | Belleville 613-969-1010 |
| Ottawa 613-225-3330 | Burlington 905-632-8152 |
| Woodstock 519-788-2683 | Scarborough 416-269-0033 |
| Hamilton 905-545-4656 | Concord 905-669-4129 |
| Pickering 905-839-8998 | Cambridge 519-622-7788 |