

December 12, 2011

News Release

For Immediate Release

October 2011 Crash Report Card

The [October 2011 Crash Report Card](#) for traffic crashes from January 1 through October 31, 2011 shows 7 less fatality crashes compared to the same time period last year. The number of injury crashes is down by 4% and total number of crashes thus far in 2011 is down by 2% compared to the same period last year.

December Safety Message

Winter safety - Heavy snow falls as we saw past winter impact traffic tremendously and even with all of Public Works' plowing crews working around the clock not all streets can be cleared. Major roadways such as arterial and collector streets have priority and will be cleared and maintained as shown in the Springfield snow route map at www.springfieldmo.gov/maps. During normal snow and ice occurrences Public Works will not clear residential local streets. In order to service our infrastructure in the most efficient way it is important that Springfield's citizens do their part by being prepared for our plowing crews.

During Snow Plowing:

- If at all possible park all vehicles on private property, best 10 feet away from the road's edge. Avoid driving altogether if roadways are icy or have not been cleared. Try to minimize the number of trips you make and it would be a good idea to consider carpooling or riding the bus.
- As a motorist or pedestrian, give vehicles with snow plows lots of space. If they can proceed at a steady speed, the safer and faster will the roads be cleared.
- When clearing your driveway, pile the snow on the "downstream" traffic side of your driveway so that plows won't shove the snow right back into your drive. Again, please offer approaching street maintenance personnel the courtesy and step back a few feet.
- Be advised that passing snow removal vehicles outside of a cleared travel lane or within 100 feet of an intersection is illegal, see City Ordinances Section 106-200.
- Fill up on windshield washer fluid as streets are likely to be treated with salt or calcium chloride. When clearing your driveway of snow please be neighborly and also clear the sidewalk of snow, which is encouraged by City Ordinances.

During Signal outages:

- Treat signalized intersections with a power outage as you would a 4-Way-Stop.
- Slow down and prepare to stop when approaching ALL intersections, but especially when police officers are directing traffic or when Public Works and City Utilities repair crews and vehicles are in or near the roadway.

Vehicle control during Snow and Ice Events:

- Winterize your vehicle by checking antifreeze and tire pressure. It is a good idea to carry a windshield de-icer (some washer fluid has de-icer). Clear vehicle windows of snow and ice and allow the vehicle to warm up and be clear to view before moving the vehicle.
- If you live in a hilly area or have a steep driveway, park your vehicle on level ground. Vehicles can slide after being parked on an incline. Possibly carry some sand for traction with you for use when needed to improve traction.
- On wet and icy surfaces, use vehicle controls as smoothly as possible. Do not over use the brake, gas or steering wheel and do not use them abruptly. Maintain a greater distance than normal to other vehicles.
- Always slow down well in advance when approaching a stop sign or signal controlled intersection. Even with a green traffic signal, be prepared to stop.
- Be extremely careful when crossing over bridges and storm water culverts as moisture freezes quicker on these structures.
- When making a turn, wait for your car to straighten out and regain stability before accelerating.
- If you encounter a car crash with emergency responders at work, slow down and pay attention to the roadway as many crashes occur when motorists take their eyes off of the road to look at the crash.

For more information, contact: Mandy Buettgen in Public Works Traffic Operations at (417) 864-1980.



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