November 19, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

September Crash Report Card

The Springfield Public Works Department’s September 2010 Crash Report Card shows there have been 11 fatal crashes (resulting in 13 total fatalities) from January 1 through September 30 of this year, compared to six fatal crashes (resulting in six total fatalities) in the same period in 2009. The number of injury crashes is down by 1 percent and total number of crashes thus far in 2010 is also 1 percent lower compared to the same period last year.

October-November Safety Message

During the January 2007 ice storm, traffic crashes increased about 33 percent over the crash experience in January with normal weather conditions. The last few years, Springfield has experienced some ice and snow conditions even before the winter season officially began. Therefore, the focus of the traffic safety message for November is to provide an early notice for motorists to get prepared now for winter driving conditions.

During Signal outages:

- Treat signalized intersections with a power outage as a four-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.

Snow and Ice:

- Check out the snow route map on the City’s website to view which streets receive priority for plowing and sanding: [www.springfieldmo.gov/maps](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/maps)
- Avoid driving altogether if roadways are icy or have not been cleared. Try to minimize the number of trips you make and consider whether it might be a good idea to carpool or ride the bus.
- 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 signalized intersection. Even with a green traffic signal, be prepared to stop.
- Be extremely careful when crossing over bridges and stormwater culverts as moisture freezes more quickly on these structures.
- When making a turn, wait for your car to straighten out and regain stability before accelerating.
- If you encounter a 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 another crash.