

December 11, 2012

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **September Crash Report Card**

The City of Springfield Public Works Department has released the September 2012 Crash Report Card for crashes taking place Jan. 1 – Sept. 30. There have been 17 fatality crashes (killing 20 people) this year, compared to six fatality crashes in the same time period in 2011. The number of total crashes has decreased by three percent and the number of injury crashes decreased six percent respectively compared to the same period last year.

### December Safety Message

No snow may have fallen in Springfield yet, but Springfield Public Works staff are already preparing for the task of plowing area roadways. 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 <http://maps.springfieldmo.gov/publicviewer/>, (select Snow Routes under Public Safety in the Table of Contents.)

Even with Public Works' plowing crews working around the clock, not all streets can be cleared. During normal snow and ice occurrences, Public Works does not clear local residential streets.

Citizens can do their part, however, in helping Public Works service the City's infrastructure in an efficient way.

Here are some tips:

During Snow Plowing:

- If at all possible park all vehicles on private property, at least 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 snowplows lots of space. If they can proceed at a steady speed, the roads are cleared faster and safer.
- 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 personal 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 to help keep your windshield clean, 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.

Public Works' Traffic Engineering staff also offers the following winter weather driving tips:

During Signal outages:

- Treat signalized intersections with a power outage as you would an All-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-ice (some washer fluid includes de-icer). Clear vehicle windows of snow and ice and allow the vehicle to warm up and allow for a clear 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.

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