

Traffic Safety Tip: snow plow etiquette

A snow plow is a common winter sight on Ontario roads. They are identified by a blue flashing light on top, and red and yellow signals to the rear.

Snow removal is essential for the timely and safe movement of cars and other traffic.

We know that lining up behind a snowplow can be a frustrating exercise. The speed is often reduced to a crawl as the snow is removed. The delay can put a dent in your plans, especially if you're running behind. On the other hand, if the plows weren't doing their jobs, you might have a dent in your car, or worse, yourself.

When you find yourself behind a snowplow, it can be tempting to pull out around and pass them. Visibility is often obscured, and the road in front of a plow is never in good shape. Often, a plow will swerve to avoid obstacles that you cannot see. It is dangerous to you, the plow driver, and other cars and drivers to pass a working snowplow. Stay back 50 meters, maintain a constant speed, and let the plows do their work.

Plan ahead and leave yourself extra time to travel on snowy days.

Keep back, stay patient. Snow plows need room to do their jobs.