

## TIP OF THE MONTH

Michigan weather is back! I was reminded today, of something that many people are probably not aware of, or maybe concerned about. Of course we are concerned about where to place all the snow as it accumulates. Pile it as high as we need to, right? High piles of snow however, depending upon where your snow pile is, could affect "safety vision" when leaving a driveway or getting through an intersection. At the end of this post, I will provide language from the motor vehicle code, section 257.677a, that addresses this. In addition to defining "safety vision", the code prohibits the pushing of snow across the road or placing snow in the road, in a manner which obstructs "safety vision". This occurs most often, on secondary roads. Many private plow truck drivers push snow across the road, maybe thinking they are doing the county plow truck drivers a favor, or to prevent a driveway from being plowed shut. I have conversed with many municipal plow truck drivers on this topic. They have all stated that this creates a safety hazard for them, as well as a maintenance issue for their plow truck. "Wind rows" are often caused when private plow truck drivers push snow across the road or place it in the road. These "wind rows" often ice up and cause bumps in the road that catch the municipal plow truck driver's blade. At speeds of 35 MPH, that results in a pretty big jolt, felt by both driver and truck!

For those of you that live in a city or village and use a snow blower, make sure you are not depositing the snow in the road. After a city or village street has been cleared, any additional deposited snow can melt from the salt and then refreeze, causing a black ice situation.

If this winter dumps as much snow on us as last year, some of you will have a tough time finding a place to pile it. Plan ahead now, so you don't have problems in February, or even March!

*From 257.677a;*

**(b) "Safety vision" means an unobstructed line of sight enabling a driver to travel upon, enter, or exit a roadway in a safe manner.**

**(2) A person shall not remove, or cause to be removed, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle other than off-road vehicles.**

**(3) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle.**

**(4) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway.**

**A roadway is also defined as 33 feet from the center of the pavement, or 66 feet on state highways, this is called the "right of way".**

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