

PARTICIPATOR

December 2015

WINTER PREPARATIONS

The winter season of 2015-2016 is no longer just showing signs of approach – it's here. Even our average winter generates severe conditions at times and, therefore, we need to be ready to be about the business of ensuring safety for winter operations.



Accumulations of snow, whether occurring naturally or as the result of snow removal efforts, can obscure driver sight lines, impede traffic and create access problems – not only for motorists but also for public equipment operators. Winter snow removal operations create a migrating work zone for which the motoring public often has little regard. They are a repeated source of accidents and NDIRF notices an up-tick in related claims whenever we experience an above-average snowfall season. There are a number of ways you can enhance the safety of snow removal operations and your citizens' winter driving experience, including the following:

- ❄ Rotating strobe lights increase the visibility of snow removal equipment.
- ❄ Back-up alarms reduce the possibility of an incident by providing an audible warning.
- ❄ “Warning – Stay Back 50 Feet” signs, mounted on the rear of snow removal equipment, can provide an additional defense against claims.
- ❄ Equip all snow removal vehicles with adequate outside mirrors to assist drivers in observing the sides and rear of the unit during operations.
- ❄ Check all vehicle and equipment heaters, fans and blowers to ensure they properly remove frost and fog on interior glass.
- ❄ Winter survival kits should be assembled and placed in each vehicle and piece of snow removal equipment.
- ❄ Consider running public service announcements through local media outlets, reminding citizens of the hazards involved in snow removal operations.

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Heavy use and/or an abundance of snow, if that occurs this season, may have you scrambling to find additional snow removal equipment. Often, this equipment lacks some or all of the appropriate safety items. If you haven't already, now is the time to make sure each piece of road working equipment has a strobe or beacon mounted on the top. Also, rear-mounted SMV and "STAY BACK 50 FEET" signs, visible from a distance of 500 feet, should be installed. When renting heavy equipment, check that the necessary warning apparatus described above has been installed. Be prepared – and have a safe winter. ■



The NDIRF office will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 24th & 25th and Friday, January 1st, 2016.

NDIRF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Annually, at least two seats on the nine-member NDIRF Board of Directors are up for election. The election is held by member voting through solicitation of proxies by mail or voting in person at the NDIRF Annual Meeting. In 2016, directorships representing the member categories of "Cities" and "Counties" are up for election. The incumbent board members are Shawn Kessel, City Administrator of Dickinson ("Cities"), and Bruce Strinden, Morton County Commissioner ("Counties"). Elected officers or employees of NDIRF members, from among the respective categories electing a director in a given year (for example, "Cities" and "Counties" in 2016), are eligible to serve as directors.

Any eligible person wishing to be considered by the NDIRF Nominating Committee as a director candidate must complete and submit a Candidate Application Form by January 31, 2016. To obtain a copy of the form, please contact the NDIRF office by phone at 1-800-421-1988; by mail at P.O. Box 2258, Bismarck, ND 58502; or via e-mail at steve.spilde@ndirf.com; and direct your request to the attention of the CEO. ■