

News from Avon Township

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Contribution submitted for News from Avon Township – December 20, 2017

One of my favorite holiday songs is, “Let it Snow.” You know the one – “Oh the weather outside is frightful; But the fire is so delightful; And since we've no place to go; Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!”

Although most of us can curl up and relax in front of a fire, a snowstorm means just the opposite for the Township. We need to be ready to send out our snowplows to keep the roads clear and safe for motorists. To make the snowplowing season safe for everyone, here are some Avon Township snow-related policies/recommendations.

First, please avoid driving too close to the plow. It is very difficult for our drivers to see you. Imagine sitting in the high-tech cockpit of one of our plows. You are about six feet off the ground, driving along with snow swirling, headlights reflecting in every direction, and an infinite assortment of moving and stationary obstacles. Plowing snow is a challenging job and the last thing we need to do is present additional distractions for our drivers. Please give snowplows a wide berth.

When you clear snow from your property, never push it into the road. In fact, it is illegal to plow across a road. One reason is because it can leave icy ridges, which if the plow blade strikes one, can damage the plow and potentially injure the driver.

As mentioned in my previous contribution, residents should also not store vehicles or place any sort of permanent objects, like stone gates or bathtub planters or barrels, in the road right-of-way, which typically extends 33 feet from the center of the road. These objects present a hazard to passing motorists as well as the snowplow.

Residents should also have a USPS-approved breakaway-style mailbox post. Although our drivers do an amazing job avoiding mailboxes, on rare occasion they may hit one. That's the advantage of a breakaway post – it will move harmlessly out of the way. In the event the Township damages your mailbox by either the plow blade or the snow that is thrown, contact me.

We frequently get complaints about the plow blade damaging lawns. Again, the drivers do their absolute best to avoid this. However, some damage may be inevitable since it is essential

to ensure that snow is pushed completely off the road surface. This can be a particular problem during a snowy winter when the snow accumulates and encroaches on the road surface.

If we all cooperate with these simple policies, winter will be a little more tolerable for everyone when the weather is frightful. So, just "Let it Snow!"