



Ohio Turnpike Prepares for Winter with Snowplow Truck Inspections

BEREA, Ohio (Oct. 25, 2024) – In preparation for the winter driving season, maintenance/roadway engineers and staff from the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission inspected all snowplow trucks and equipment from October 22 to 25 at eight maintenance buildings located across the 241-mile toll road.

The maintenance checklist included a 136-point inspection of all engine parts, plowing equipment, tires, lights, and other components as well as a test calibration of the salt and liquid de-icing systems, and more.

“When our snowplow trucks are in action, they run an average speed of about 30 to 35 miles per hour and are visible with flashing green, orange and white lights,” said Jeff Landel, superintendent of the Ohio Turnpike’s Western Division, which includes the maintenance facilities in Pioneer (Williams County), Swanton (Fulton County), Elmore (Ottawa County), and Castalia (Erie County). “We want all motorists to be aware that our snowplow trucks are moving slower to remove ice and snow to keep everyone safe.”

This year, 103 snowplows are available to maintain about 1,400 lane miles, 24 toll plazas and nine non-tolled plazas, and 14 service plazas.

“Motorists should take every precaution to avoid passing snowplow trucks and allow extra space for the drivers to clear the road,” said Matt McMullen, superintendent of the Ohio Turnpike’s Eastern Division, which includes the maintenance facilities in Amherst (Lorain County), Richfield (Summit County), Windham (Portage County), and Canfield (Mahoning County). “Don’t crowd the plow. The safest place to be is behind a snowplow truck.”

Last winter, Ohio Turnpike crews handled 31 storm events and worked more than 23,000 hours to keep the toll road, bridges and its facilities clear of snow and ice. More than 273,000 gallons of liquid deicer and 32,000 tons of salt were used.

Each of the eight facilities maintain about a 30-mile stretch of the Ohio Turnpike in both the eastbound and westbound directions. With current staffing and equipment levels, the entire Ohio Turnpike can be plowed once per hour.

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