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January 7, 2022

News release **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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County reminds residents, property owners not to deposit snow on roadways

With snow cover finally here — and here to stay for the foreseeable future — the Kenosha County Division of Highways is reminding people not to deposit snow and ice from driveways onto roadways and highway shoulders.

Doing so is both dangerous and illegal, said Kenosha County Highway Director Clement Abongwa.

"We ask for the public's cooperation as we work to keep our roadways clear and safe for motorists throughout the winter," Abongwa said.

Wisconsin Statute <u>346.94(5)</u>, "Rules of the Road," states: "No person shall place or cause to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof."

Wisconsin Statute <u>346.95(3)</u> states: "Any person violating S.346.94(5) shall be required to forfeit \$50 for each offense."

Additionally, if the snow/ice you deposit on the roadway causes an accident, you can be held liable for the accident and any resulting injuries and property damage, Abongwa noted.

Abongwa also reminded motorists to use extra caution when driving near snowplows.

Wisconsin statute <u>346.915</u> requires drivers to stay at least 200 feet behind a snowplow engaged in snow/ice removal upon any highway with a posted speed limit of more than 35 mph. Violators may receive a \$175 fine and an assessment of three driver's license demerit points.

"The additional space you provide a snowplow operator ensures your safety and the safety of your fellow motorists, and supports efficient snow-fighting operations," Abongwa said. "If one of our vehicles in involved in an accident, the driver and equipment will likely be removed from active duty, reducing the resources we have to make the roads clean and safe for everyone during a snow or ice event."

More tips on safe winter driving — including things to consider if you become stranded, winter vehicle maintenance and how to prepare an emergency winter travel kit — are available on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's website, at https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/education/winter-drv/default.aspx.

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