Department of Public Works & Development Services

Clement Abongwa, Director Division of Highways 19600 75th Street, Suite 122-1 Bristol, Wisconsin 53104 (262) 857-1870 Fax: (262) 857-1885

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Contact: Clement Abongwa 262-653-1870

County reminds property owners: Do not deposit snow, ice on roadways

The Kenosha County Division of Highways is reminding people not to deposit snow and ice from driveways onto roadways and highway shoulders, and to use extra caution when driving near snowplows.

Blowing or plowing snow onto roadways is both dangerous and illegal, said Kenosha County Highway Director Clement Abongwa.

"Doing so creates a hazard for drivers, and it affects the ability of our crews to keep roads clear of snow and ice," Abongwa said. "We appreciate the public's assistance as we work to maintain safe conditions for drivers throughout the winter."

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." Violators are subject to a \$50 forfeiture for each offense.

Additionally, Abongwa noted, if an accident is caused by snow/ice that was deposited onto a roadway, the person who did the depositing can be held liable for the accident and any resulting injuries and property damage.

As for using caution around snowplows, Abongwa noted another state statute: 346.915 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.

"Providing that extra space around snowplows creates a safer situation for you and for our drivers, and it supports efficient plowing operations," Abongwa said.

More tips on safe winter driving are available on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's website, at https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/safety/education/winter-drv/default.aspx.