

INGHAM COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

AUSTIN E. CAVANAUGH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
301 Bush Street, P.O. Box 38, Mason MI 48854-0038

Joseph A. Guenther, Chair
Shirley M. Rodgers, Vice Chair
Thomas M. Mitchell, Member
James Dravenstatt-Mocerri, Member
Norman L. Gear, Member

William M. Conklin, P.E.
Managing Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact the Road Commission:

October 15, 2009

(517) 676-9722

SHAKE YOUR MAILBOX DAY

Ingham County Road Commission is asking all county residents to prepare for winter by shaking their mailbox to make sure it's ready to stand up to the rigors of winter.

Governor Jennifer Granholm has officially proclaimed Saturday, October 24 as 'Shake Your Mailbox Day' in Michigan. Shake Your Mailbox Day is a joint effort on the part of the Road Commission and the United States Postal Service (U.S.P.S.). Many homeowners have started the practice of changing batteries in smoke detectors when clocks are changed for daylight savings time. In the same manner, Shake Your Mailbox Day reminds homeowners of the importance of preparing their mailbox for winter.

Record snow falls in recent winters have led to an increase in the number of mailboxes damaged by heavy snow thrown from passing plows. Many of the mailboxes damaged by winter snow removal have become loose after years of use. Damage to these posts and receptacles can be prevented by proper routine maintenance.

The majority of mailbox damage is caused by thrown snow. Taking time to tighten screws and secure mail receptacles now can prevent serious headaches later. If the mailbox moves when shaken, this is likely an indication the mailbox and/or post may not be able to withstand standard snow removal operations and should be repaired or replaced prior to the onset of winter.

Residents are warned that the new modular plastic mailboxes are also susceptible to damage from thrown snow. Plastic mailboxes become very brittle with age and cold weather, and frequently shatter when hit by snow thrown from the plow.

This is also a good time to replace loose hinges on the mailbox door and to replace or add reflective house numbers to not only protect workers, but to allow emergency responders to easily find your home.

The Road Commission does not replace mailboxes damaged by thrown snow. The Road Commission does reimburse residents up to \$15 for damages to the box and/or post if they are damaged from being directly hit by snow plows.

Telephone: (517) 676-9722 1-800-968-9733 Fax: (517) 676-2085 TDD: (517) 676-7798

E-Mail: roads@inghamcrc.org Web Site: <http://www.inghamcrc.org>

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On roads having a speed limit over 25 mph, there are limits to the structural rigidity that a mailbox may have in order to not present a fixed object hazard to traffic.

- Wood posts should be no more than 4 inches diameter if round, 4x4 inches if rectangular
- Metal pipes should be standard steel or aluminum with no more than a 2 inch inside diameter
- Supports should yield or collapse if struck by a vehicle. They should bend or fall away from a vehicle and not create a severe deceleration
- Supports cannot be embedded over 24 inches into the ground, or set in concrete
- The mailbox must be constructed of sheet metal, plastic or similar weight materials, with weight not to exceed 11 pounds
- The United States Postal Service asks that roadside mailboxes be 42 to 48 inches off of the ground, and 8 to 12 inches behind the shoulder or the curb
- A mailbox and its support will be considered **hazardous to motorists** when the support exceeds the described structural limitations
- Any mailbox and its support considered to be a hazard must be removed from the road right-of-way and replaced by one conforming to the above standards

If you have questions on what is permitted, please contact the Road Commission.

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