ROUTE FAMILIARIZATION

Knowledge of assigned snow routes is essential. Periodic "dry runs" can be a valuable planning tool to acquaint drivers with their routes. Even veteran drivers need to be aware of changes which may have occurred since the previous winter.

Take notice of new developments with new access roads, new driveways, utility poles, manholes and delineators. Road reconstruction could result in new curbing, medians, guardrails and drainage structures, to be aware of. Also, check overhead for low hanging wires and tree growth. It is beneficial to run the routes during or just after a rain. High water locations may provide a forewarning as to where icy conditions could occur during a snow and ice event. Note locations of the obstacles that could be marked or delineated to improve visibility during the

winter season.

Routine structures to monitor include: railroad crossings, signals, bridges and priority facilities along the route. Knowledge of routine structures and special treatment areas such as, hills, curves, intersections, drift prone stretches and cold spots, prior to a storm will ensure more efficient stormfighting and provide greater safety to the driver.

Keep the assigned snow route map, entire unit's routes and route documentation forms within reach for memory refreshing and in case of emergency reorganization during a storm effort where drivers are forced to treat unfamiliar routes.

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