**TIPS AND HINTS**

**FROM VETERAN DRIVERS**

**1. When loading, keep material below the grates. That will keep you from overloading and keeps excess material from spilling out of the dump box.**

**2. Pay attention to area forecasts and get the proper rest, when foul weather is forecasted.**

**3. Report all equipment and radio failures to supervision, so it can be repaired as quickly as possible.**

**4. Don't call in every accident you come across, unless you know it hasn't been reported yet.**

**5. Keep radio traffic as short as possible.**

**6. Drive defensively at all times.**

**7. When you have the plow down, keep tension on the chains to keep some of the pressure off of the blades.**

**8. When you have whiteout conditions, use your side windows and mirrors to know where you are on the route.**

**9. Each storm is different. Sometimes all you need is a salt/sand mix, and other times you may need straight salt mixed with deicing chemicals.**

**10. When the wind is blowing dry snow across the road, do not treat. Leave the surface alone.**

**11. If the storm is long, get material on the surface. Then when the temperature drops way below 0 and the wind is blowing, only plowing will be necessary. When the storm breaks, clean up will be quick.**

**12. Watch for raised manholes in the road.**

**13. Watch for curbing in towns and in open country.**

**14. Push back the snow at intersections, so traffic can see to pull out.**

**15. Watch your speed in town, so the snow isn't thrown on the sidewalks.**

**TIPS AND HINTS FROM**

**VETERAN DRIVERS CONT…**

**16. Always do a walk-around inspection, for safety, to thoroughly check the equipment before use.**

**17. Familiarize new operators with your truck (location of controls, etc…).**

**18. Watch for traffic coming off of side streets.**

**19. Watch out for icy conditions. In shady areas the sun won't help melt it off much.**

**20. Watch while plowing and sanding around Amish buggies.**

**21. Take your time. Getting in a hurry always leads to problems.**

**22. Be patient. Drive slow.**

**23. Push back shoulders on the high sides of curves, so melting snow doesn't come back across the road, causing slick conditions.**

**24. Raise the plow when crossing railroad tracks.**

**25. Don't rely solely on plowable centerline delineators to help you find the center of the road as not all roads have them.**

**26. Before you load your truck, turn your conveyor on to check its operation.**

**27. Be alert, be efficient but careful, and keep a safe distance from other vehicles.**

**28. When plowing out the center of the road, adjust the plow so that the lead edge is 1 to 1 1/2 inches off the ground. The trailing edge of the plow will then only barely touch the RPM's. This serves two purposes: you can find the RPM's without damage to the carbide blade or to the RPM by gradually easing to the left and it also leaves a little snow and slush to hold the salt to the surface.**

**29. Give your material time to work, after putting it down. Leave the brine and slush on the roadway until the storm is over, and then plow off for a complete cleanup.**

**30. Know the hazards of area you are working such as guardrail, curbs, raised bridge decks and drives.**

**31. Take your time and watch for traffic. It's a fast world on the road. BUT MOST OF ALL USE COMMON SENSE!**