

The most common violation our operators are involved in is crossing the center line of our highways. We are allowed to cross over the center line to remove snow/ice buildup as long as traffic permits. However, the operator must operate safely and with due regard by yielding the right-of-way to oncoming vehicles.

### **SAFE OPERATING CONDITIONS OF SNOW AND ICE TRUCKS**

N.Y.S.D.O.T. vehicles are **not required** by V. & T. Law to display inspection stickers. **However**, it is the **policy** of N.Y.S.D.O.T. to **meet** the V. & T. inspection requirements. During activities when the truck is equipped for and actually engaged in Snow & Ice Operations some relaxation of the **policy may** occur if overall traffic safety is at risk. During **routine** operation over the highway, it is N.Y.S.D.O.T. policy to have up-to-date inspection stickers on all trucks.

An operator **must** use sound judgment in assessing road worthiness of any snow and ice vehicle. If, for example, a high beam on one of the headlights or a taillight is not working, the vehicle is not unsafe because many other truck lights having similar functions are in working condition. However, if the brakes are out of adjustment or the wipers did not work and it was snowing or raining, the truck would be unsafe to operate.

Reasonableness requires that the operator should always check with the supervisor whenever the question of an unsafe vehicle exists.

In One Person Plowing operations, sound judgment is also applicable. However, if the truck radio does not work, and no other means of communication can be arranged, then a second person **shall** be assigned to the vehicle.

## **VII. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

### **BASIC TRANSMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL OPERATORS**

- Before using the mobile radio, think about what you want to say, stay calm and be accurate with your message.
- Place your mouth close to the microphone, press the button, pause 2 seconds, and speak across it in a normal voice.
- Mention the person or place being called first and your ID last.
- Give the person or location being called time to answer before calling again.
- Never "go out of service" without notifying the dispatcher of your location and the length of time you expect to be "out".