

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE BULLETIN**Snow Removal Procedures at Railway Crossings****Summary**

This Bulletin is issued to inform maintenance contractors and department staff of the appropriate snow plowing procedures at railway crossings.

Proper snow plowing is essential at railway crossings in order to avoid creating unsafe conditions. In response to safety concerns raised by the public and some railway personnel at crossing during the winter season, highway maintenance staff is reminded of the guidelines necessary for safety when undertaking snow removal at level railway crossings.

Best Practices

1. When plowing snow at railway crossings location, the snow-plow blade must be raised before going over the crossing surface to ensure that the blades do not damage the rails.
2. Windrows must not be left between the rails or on the approaches to the crossing. This can result in unsafe conditions with reduced sightlines at the crossing and trains hitting windrows. The contact of trains with windrows could result in pedestrian injuries and/or vehicle damage caused by thrown snow/ice.
3. In case of an incident, GO Transit/Metrolinx and CN Railway identifies all public crossings with a rail line mile and subdivision marker on or in the vicinity of the crossing posts along with a 24 hour emergency phone number. CP Railway crossings are identified by a unique crossing ID number, which is found on the yellow signs mounted on the cross-buck posts or signal masts.

Any incident involving damage to signage, crossing surface, rails, crossing gate, or signals at a crossing should be called in to the emergency number immediately.

4. These procedures above apply to all rail line crossings.