



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## **News for Immediate Release**

**December 14, 2009**

### **PENNDOT REMINDS HOMEOWNERS TO PREPARE MAILBOXES FOR WINTER**

**Indiana** – PennDOT Engineering District 10 is reminding homeowners living along State Routes to prepare mailboxes for heavy snow.

PennDOT's mission throughout the winter is to maintain safe and passable roads. Often, keeping roads open means plowing deep snow to the edge of roads.

Snowplow operators are instructed to maintain lower speeds when plowing in areas where mailboxes are present and try to avoid contact when possible. Occasionally, however, some damage from heavy snow occurs to mailboxes. **PennDOT does not replace damaged mailboxes.** Since most mailboxes are placed within PennDOT's legal right-of-way, it is up to the homeowner to make sure that their mailbox can withstand the weight of snow being thrown from a plow.

Normally, if a mailbox is placed as far beyond the shoulder of the highway as the postal carrier can reach and it is firmly supported, it should have no problem withstanding the weight of the snow as a plow passes.

PennDOT offers these tips to help eliminate the possibility of a mailbox being damaged this winter:

- Place a six to eight-inch piece of reflective tape on the mailbox to help snow plow operators see it at night.
- Remove snow from around the mailbox, but avoid throwing it back onto the road.
- If the mailbox is located within the legal right-of-way and damage was experienced in the past, homeowners may want to consider relocating the mailbox before this winter.
- Make sure the mailbox post is firmly supported in the ground.

Homeowners who have followed these tips in the past and have still experienced damaged mailboxes may want to consider installing a cantilever mailbox support that will "swing" a mailbox out of harm's way. Plans for building the cantilever mailbox support (see attached) can be obtained for free by calling the PennDOT District 10 Community Relations' Office at (724) 357-2829. The schematic is also located on PennDOT's Get Ready for Winter Webpage at <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/>

Taking steps to ensure the visibility and stability of mailboxes will help PennDOT and Postal Carriers deliver their best this winter.

For more information on roadway construction and maintenance operations, access PennDOT District 10's website at [www.dot.state.pa.us/district10](http://www.dot.state.pa.us/district10).

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**Source:** PennDOT Engineering District 10.

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