



# Snow Plowing 101

2011

# Objectives

- Plow positioning and its effects
- Back Dragging
- Snow Conditions
- Special Hazards pertaining to SGFD
- Special Considerations
- Inner Workings of the Plow
- Connecting the plow to the truck

# Angled Position

- In this position the blade is angled to either left or right side of the vehicle. Use this position for windrowing or widening after the first pass.

# How to Windrow

- With the blade angled to the left or right side of the vehicle, make consecutive passes--each time throwing the snow forward and to the side. This technique is useful to clear large areas such as parking lots.
- Speed is a factor but not encouraged on SGFD property.

# Straight Position

- In this position the blade is positioned directly in front of the vehicle. Use this position for back dragging, removing a large windrow or cleaning up at the end of the job.

# How to Back Drag

- To remove snow from the edge of a building, raise the blade and drive forward to the building. Lower the blade, then back up while pulling the snow away from the building. You should back drag only two or three truck lengths before turning around. You can then back into the cleared area and push snow forward. Your plow will be more effective when pushing snow than when back dragging over long distances.

# Deep Snow

- In deep snow raise the plow several inches off the ground to shear off the top layer. You should push just enough snow with each pass to get the job done efficiently without overloading your equipment. A good rule of thumb is to use a full blade width for two inches of snow or less, three quarters of the blade for four inches of snow and a half blade for six inches of snow or more.

# Wet Snow

- The best advice is this: Once you start, finish the job. Wet snow left in windrows overnight can freeze and turn into tank traps by morning.
- Wet snow, or slush, is best pushed to the sides instead of using the straight position.

# Special Hazards for SGFD

- Front Entrance
- Must keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians.



# Special Hazards for SGFD

- Parking Blocks on North Side
- Stay at least 1 foot from either side so you ensure not to catch one of the blocks.



# Special Hazards for SGFD

- Parking Islands
- Become aware of the locations of these to prevent damage to the truck and curbs.



# Special Hazards for SGFD

- Generator
- Do NOT push snow against the generator for any reason.



# Special Hazards for SGFD

- Push the snow here instead.



# Special Hazards for SGFD

- Dumpster
  - Must keep the doors leading to the dumpster clear.
  - Push as much snow to the end of the drive as possible.



# Special Considerations

- When approaching a curb, raise the plow enough where the cutting blade will clear and not damage the curb or truck. This will also help push the snow back farther and up higher, giving you more room for future plowing. Also, slow your speed so you ensure not to hit the curb with the plow mounts or truck mounts.
- Be conscious of peoples vehicles. Try not to push the snow towards them or they will get stuck.
- It's not about how fast you can plow the lot, but rather the quality of the job. The more snow you leave on the pavement, the better the chances of someone falling.

# Inner Workings of the Plow

- Blade – 8 foot steel
- All Hydraulic cylinders
- Electrical – Between the headlights. Not to be messed with.
- Trip Springs w/absorber
- Plow Feet – used mainly for plowing gravel drives.



# Connecting the Plow

- Align the trucks mount with the plows mount.
- Flip the levers into the “locked” position.
- Move the toggle switch in the “up” position and once it aligns it should lock automatically.
- Remember to stow the plows resting foot prior to moving.



Questions?