



BY EMAIL

February 01, 2024

SUBJECT: Snow Removal Operations, Railroad Crossings

To whom it may concern,

During the winter months, snow removal operations are carried out in order for roads to be safe for its users. In past years, CN regularly observes a build-up of snow on the side of the road, a by-product of the snow removal, which can lead to motorist visibility being obstructed at rail crossings. In addition, this snow build-up can affect the proper operation of the Automatic Warning Devices (AWD) at the crossing.

As we are in middle of winter, CN wishes to re-circulate snow clearing procedures at crossings to road authorities, for distribution to snowplough operators and roadway maintenance workers., Please refer to the attached Operation Lifesaver brochure entitled *Railway Safety Tips for Municipal Maintenance Workers*.

In addition to the tips listed in the brochure, the following are some of the best practices for snow removal operators:

- When ploughing snow at crossings, the snowplough blade must be raised before going over the crossing surface to ensure that the blades do not damage the rails.
- Windrows must not be left between the rails or within 5 metres of the track. This can result in unsafe conditions with reduced sightlines at the crossing, malfunctioning warning systems, and trains hitting windrows which could result in derailment, injuries, and or vehicle damage caused by thrown snow and ice. Also, windrows must not be left on railway access roads parallel to the track that provide railway employees access to their property and equipment for weekly/monthly inspection.
- Snow piles must not restrict sightlines on the approach to the crossing, including motorists' visibility of crossing signs or signals.
- When plowing bridges over CN tracks, ensure the plow is not directing snow over the sides of the bridge onto CN's tracks beneath as this can cause damage to our cables and track operations.
- Never dump salt or chemicals directly on or near any crossing. Salt or chemicals reduce the resistant properties of track ties and rock ballast. This is turn can cause the electrical signals carried through the rails to short out, resulting in activation of flashing light warning devices or malfunction of train signals.
- To prevent sand from being carried onto the tracks, ensure sand is not applied with three (3) metres of a crossing
- Ensure snow is cleared in a safe and timely manner to prevent incidents above or near rail tracks.
- Snowplow operators should watch out for Railway employees working in proximity of the tracks.



CN requests your cooperation in ensuring that these best practices are communicated promptly to snowplow operators and roadway maintenance workers in order to ensure the safety of public level crossings in your jurisdiction. Please be reminded that the Road Authority is responsible to ensure that snow removal operations do not affect, in any way, the safety of public level crossings. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

In the case that snow is permitted to accumulate on the crossing, near the AWD's, or any other location where it may compromise vehicular safety or affect railway operations, please be advised that CN will undertake corrective work at the cost of the Road Authority.

In case of an incident, CN identifies all public crossings with a mile and subdivision marker which is located on the crossing posts or signal box near crossings.

A **24-hour emergency number** is also identified, **1-800-465-9239**. **Any incident involving damage to signage, crossing surface or rails at a crossing should be called in to the emergency number immediately.**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,