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Snow way! Road district once again cautions drivers

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built in the middle of the street. "It's funny now but at the time, it nearly scared me to death and could have caused a problem if I had seen it in time to swerve and avoid 'him!'"

Others talked about times they had been shaken after nearly running over children sledding and playing at the road's edge and after near misses with ATVs jumping mounds of snow left during previous plowings and dogs and their owners who didn't look before running into the street.

"Our trucks are big and heavy but they slide on ice and snow, just like everyone else's vehicles. People need to understand we can't always stop fast," said Kevin Luttrell, acting superintendent for the district. "They also need to realize that visibility is not good, particularly at night, when we're plowing."

He also said although the curve of the blade prevents much of the snow from flying back up on to the windshield, when the wind is blowing, and when it's snowing hard drivers can have a very difficult time seeing more than a few feet past the nose of the trucks.

That's what Ryan Cochran planned to explain to the woman who had nearly been buried as she stood, hidden from view in front of her vehicle, waiting for the plow to pass. He never got the chance because before he could turn around and head back, she was gone.

"Turning around" is also a sore subject with most of these drivers. Many have wished for a place to do just that but in-

stead have been forced to back up, sometimes for nearly half a mile, because they couldn't squeeze through the space left by thoughtless residents. T.J. Moore said one night he even came across a vehicle parked in the middle of the road, emergency lights flashing. The rest all related tales of "dodge-'em-style" driving - weaving between parked vehicles while maneuvering the steep and sometimes narrow roads on the Bend.

They all had suggestions that would make their jobs easier and keep residents safer:

1. When possible, don't drive until roads are cleared.

2. Park vehicles off the road as far as possible to leave room for plows and avoid "sand-blasting" by salt-sand spreaders.

3. Since the snow-removal mixture has the same effect on vehicles that follow plows too closely, drivers need to stay back at least 50 feet.

4. Try not to park in blind-spots, on curves or steep hills.

5. Talk to other residents about choosing one side of the street to park on.

6. Warn children to stay far away from the road's edge until the snow has stopped and the streets are clear.

7. Those who insist on exercising in snowy weather need to walk facing traffic and carry or wear reflective gear or flashlights.

7. When weather warms, re-examine placement of mailboxes and trash receptacles. Many illegally located at the road's edge on easement have been destroyed by plows this year.



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