**Reminder – Remove Snow from Vehicles**

It has been the law in New Jersey since October 2010 that drivers (not owners) must make reasonable efforts to remove accumulated ice and snow from a motor vehicle prior to operation. Failure to do so may result in fines from $25.00 to $75.00 for each offense.

If snow or ice is dislodged from a vehicle, fines can be $200-$1,000 for non-commercial vehicles and $500 -$1,500 for commercial vehicles. Municipal vehicles are not exempt.

Drivers are reminded to:

* Inspect your vehicle before beginning your shift. Make sure
	+ Wipers work and cleaner fluid reservoirs are full
	+ Defrosters work and vents are clear
	+ Tires have good treads and are properly inflated. Cold temperatures can result in loss of air pressure.
	+ Headlights work (low AND high beams) and are properly aimed. Also, REMEMBER high beams in heavy snowfall can reflect back at the driver, thereby REDUCING vision of the road.
* Watch weather forecasts. Prepare for predicted snow by
	+ Fueling vehicle
	+ Completely dry windshield. Cover with beach towel or similar cloth and secure in place.
	+ Consider adding weight, (sandbags, etc.) to increase traction
* Clear snow from windshield and remainder of vehicle.

**[DESCRIBE YOUR AGENCY’S RESOURCES TO CLEAR SNOW FROM VEHICLES]**

* Drive especially carefully in the snow and ice. Turn, brake and accelerate slowly. Increase your following distances.

**Drive defensively.**

**You are a professional. Other drivers might not be as cautious!**

*This lesson plan is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization’s policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. For further information regarding this bulletin, please contact your Safety Director at 877.398.3046.*

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Additional points / comments to be made:

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Follow-up actions:

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