



GREEN LAKE COUNTY
Highway Safety Traffic Commission
492 Hill St. Green Lake, WI. 54941
“December Safety Spotlight”

First Slippery Roads of the Season

The first ice and snow of the season requires a significant change in driving habits for all of us. Unfortunately for some this change results in traffic crashes. Green Lake County Sheriff's Office statistics were pulled for the first two ice and/or snow events of 2007 and 2008. During those first two snows an average of approximately eight crashes and/or slide-off incidents per snow event were recorded. This number has proven to be higher earlier in the cold season as drivers adjust. Except for major ice and snow events the number of crashes levels off for the remainder of the cold season.

Patti Nellis, the North Central Region Program Manager for the Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety, and County Commission member, advises that the initial crash spike in first snow and ice storms is, "typical". Nellis advises that, "Green Lake County is not alone with this issue".

According to Green Lake County Sheriff Mark Podoll, also a Commission member, "slowing down", is a major factor in preventing these crashes. Sheriff Podoll also recommends, "building more time into your travel plans", as a good practice in making sure you get to your destination safely.

Green Lake County Highway Commissioner Robert Podgorski, another Highway Safety member, has also reviewed crash data. Commissioner Podgorski advises that "cleaning off your windshield and car improves visibility and helps drivers see other problems and snow removal equipment."

The Green Lake County Highway Traffic Safety Commission hopes that you make the best of your early Winter season and that you are able to travel through it safely.

Mark P. Putzke
Chairman
Green Lake County Highway Traffic Safety Commission

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