

November 10, 2020

Guidance on using wing-plows in an open lane of traffic

To optimize efficiency and effectiveness while keeping the traveling public's safety a top priority, snowplow trucks with a wing-plow attachment may occupy two lanes of thru traffic, as well as freeway ramps, if the following conditions are met. This is not to be considered standard practice and should only be used when deemed necessary by the Supervisor and done by experienced plow truck operators.

1. An approved lighted wing stick must be installed on the wing-plow. The minimum height should be 36 inches.
2. The operator is responsible for checking that the lights are functioning, and that, conspicuity tape and other safety features are in proper working order and cleared of ice and snow as part of their pre-trip inspection. These safety features should be checked during the shift at turnarounds and or reloading operations.
3. The operators shall note on their pre-trip inspection that the lighting system was functioning properly.
4. That traffic, visibility and other conditions are appropriate for the use of the wing-plow in an active lane of traffic.

If at any time the wing-plow in an active lane of travel is creating a safety hazard or the equipment is not being maintained appropriately, operators will immediately discontinue use of the wing-plow in an active lane of travel, until conditions improve or issues have been corrected.

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