

## INDOT and Hendricks County Highway Department Remind Public to Reinforce Mailboxes Before Winter Weather Arrives

Snow and ice removal is a top priority during winter months. While the plow trucks generally travel slower than the posted speed limit and drivers are careful to avoid mailboxes, the weight of snow thrown from plows can cause damage to mailboxes that are not properly secured or have weak supports.

Property owners are responsible for installing and maintaining mailboxes on state and county right of ways. To mitigate possible damage, place your mailbox as far from the edge of the roadway as a mail carrier can reach and mount the mailbox on a sturdy support so it should withstand the force of snow thrown from a plow.

Clearing snow from the access area near a mailbox can ensure safer delivery of mail and reduce the amount of snow coming off a plow.

Below are tips to help reduce the risk of mailbox damage:

- Place a six-to-eight-inch piece of reflective tape on the mailbox to help it be seen at night.
- Remove snow from around your mailbox but avoid throwing snow back onto the roadway.
- Inspect your mailbox. Make sure it is firmly supported in the ground and make sure it is securely mounted to the post. Check for deteriorated/rusted posts and/or mounts.
- Avoid plastic mailboxes if possible. Some tend to shatter in cold temperatures.
- If your mailbox is continually damaged or knocked down, consider changing the location, even if just by a few feet.

