

Blowing or plowing snow into street is illegal and dangerous

Winter has arrived in the Hudson Valley and the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board would like to remind the public that blowing or plowing snow into the street can be dangerous.

Article 1219 of New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) prohibits anyone from putting on public roads “any substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle”...and that includes snow! The law covers a variety of items likely to pose a hazard to motorists, including glass, nails, wire, cans, etc. Fines for a first offense include up to a \$150 fine and/or 15 days in jail, plus applicable surcharges.

The law also applies to grass clippings and leaves, which can be as slippery as ice under wet conditions and are particularly hazardous for motorcyclists during the warmer months of the year.

The law does not prohibit the use of salt or sand or materials that are otherwise intended to allow for safe use of the highway. It also clarifies that materials on the highway resulting from agricultural activities are exempt from the law.

The Ulster County Traffic Safety Board is a coalition of agencies and citizens designated with the responsibility to coordinate and approve highway safety programs in Ulster County. To learn more, visit <https://ulstercountyny.gov/traffic-safety-board> .