



ODOT Home Districts District 06 News

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JOHN R. KASICH, OHIO GOVERNOR

JERRY WRAY, ODOT DIRECTOR

Ohio Department of Transportation • News Release

DISTRICT 6 • FERZAN M. AHMED, P.E., DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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ODOT Gives Snowplows, Drivers Green Light for Winter *New Season, New Technology*

DELAWARE (Friday, November 2, 2012) – The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will make history this winter by being the first state in the nation to use green-colored strobe lights on its snowplow trucks. Studies show green lights are more easily detected by the human eye than other colors.

The new green lights, along with new white lights, will be added to the existing amber lights creating a color combination unique to ODOT. “The change to multi-colored lights was driven by the number of vehicles rear-ending ODOT’s plow trucks,” said ODOT District 6 Deputy Director Ferzan M Ahmed. “Ohio has four times the number of rear-end collisions as our neighboring states.”

While the official start of winter is months away, ODOT is hard at work readying its snow-fighting equipment and its 3,000 snowplow drivers for the upcoming snow and ice season.

Over the next week, ODOT District 6, which includes Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Marion, Morrow, Madison, Pickaway and Union Counties will conduct 150-point inspections on its snow fight equipment. Twice a year, ODOT tests and fine-tunes the plows to make sure they are ready to fight the ice and snow.

“Although last winter was mild, Ohio weather is unpredictable,” said ODOT Director Jerry Wray. “By ensuring our equipment is fully functional and our drivers are trained, motorists can be assured roads will be safe and passable from the first snowstorm to the last.”

Thanks to Governor John R. Kasich’s Mid-Biennium Review (MBR), use of the multi-colored lights on snowplow trucks, when operated on highways, is now law. The MBR was a top-to-bottom review of state government agencies and programs. Through this process, the Governor and his cabinet found a number of significant changes to reform outdated policies.

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ODOT to debut new green strobes

ODOT information

LIMA – The Ohio Department of Transportation’s new snowplow lighting scheme, featuring green as the department’s new signature lighting color, will be debuted locally during the annual equipment inspections that will occur in Van Wert County at 8 a.m. Thursday, November 1, at the county ODOT garage, 10238 Van Wert-Decatur Road.

District 1 encompasses the northwest Ohio counties of Allen, Defiance, Hancock, Hardin, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert and Wyandot.



ODOT is making history this winter by being the first state in the nation to use green-colored strobe lights on its snowplow trucks. Studies show green is one of the colors that is more easily detected by the human eye. The new green lights, along with new white lights, will be added to the existing amber lights, creating a color combination unique to the ODOT.

“We plan to have a truck featuring the new lighting pattern at each of our inspections,” said Kirk Slusher, ODOT District 1 deputy director. “We invite the public and the media to see the new and distinct color and strobe pattern, which we believe will make our trucks more visible.”

The added visibility is deemed necessary, since ODOT snowplows are rear-ended nearly four times more often than snowplow trucks in neighboring states. ODOT officials note they hope that better visibility will lead to safer roadways, since motorists will be able to identify and avoid snowplow trucks easier.

A video of the new lighting color and pattern may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVvJl7fxDbk&feature=youtu.be>.

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ODOT wants flashing green lights for snowplows after spike in plow-related crashes



By [Tom Breckenridge, The Plain Dealer](#)

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on December 30, 2010 at 7:05 AM, updated December 30, 2010 at 2:56 PM

With Michael Sangiacomo

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- ODOT wants the "Green Lantern" to protect its snowplows and fend off a rising number of snowplow-car accidents.

The [transportation agency](#) is employing comic book imagery in a quest to outfit its snowplows with flashing green lights to enhance their visibility.

Safety analysts are alarmed that ODOT plows have been involved in 63 crashes statewide, just one month into the winter season.

That surpasses 57 crashes all of last winter, the Ohio Department of Transportation [reported Wednesday](#).

In the Cleveland area, ODOT plows have been involved in 12 crashes, compared to just one during the same time last year.

Early winter storms are a factor in the spike, said ODOT spokesman Scott Varner.

"We've had our equipment out much sooner and longer," he said. "But there's got to be something else going on."

ODOT is studying why accidents have increased. But safety experts believe flashing, green LEDs that cut through snowy darkness would better protect ODOT plows and their drivers -- [just as pulp superhero Green Lantern](#) uses a powerful light to protect the people of Earth, ODOT said in a news release.

The agency will seek approval to use green lights from the Ohio Legislature and Gov.-elect John Kasich in 2011, Varner said.

He was not aware of any other state transportation agencies using green lights on plows.

By law, plows can use only flashing yellow lights. They are also used by tow trucks, postal-service trucks and other non-emergency vehicles.

"I think the motoring public is kind of immune to the [flashing yellow lights]," said Jim Lubanovich, who manages plow drivers at an ODOT garage near Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. "The green lights would make us stand out and drivers would think, 'We need to slow down and give them room to do their job.'"

Typically, motorists hit plows from behind, realizing too late that the big trucks move more slowly while scraping tons of snow, Varner said.

And the plows kick up an icy cloud that can obscure the vision of drivers trying to pass the plows, Varner said.

He expects debate will include whether green lights are optimal for safety, or whether they might confuse motorists who associate green with moving ahead, not slowing down.

ODOT hopes the green light proposal is approved by next winter's driving season.