

This is an article from the Bemidji Pioneer newspaper found from a few years back.

"(According the Minnesota Statute 160.2715, "(a) Except for the actions of the road authorities, their agents, employees, contractors, and utilities in carrying out their duties imposed by law or contract, and except as herein provided, it shall be unlawful to:

(1) obstruct any highway or deposit snow or ice thereon and (b) Any violation of this section is a misdemeanor."

"This means, in laymen's terms, you can't push snow across the road or into the street to get it out of your driveway.

The law is very specific on this issue. You can get fined for pushing snow across the road -- be it state, county or city.

According to the MnDOT website, "Snow removal operators are advised not to push snow onto public roadways."

The Minnesota Department of Transportation reminds all snow removal operators that it is unlawful to deposit snow on or next to a public highway or street. Minnesota law and many local ordinances prohibit the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow onto public roadways. This includes the ditch and right of way area along the roadside.

Violations are considered misdemeanors, but civil penalties also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.

Other hazards created by improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction and safe accessibility. Special attention should be made to keep crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed.

"With the advent of the recent snowfall, we want to assure that all are educated on the law pertaining to this. Minnesota Statute 160.2715 (a) (1) expressly forbids obstructing any highway or depositing snow or ice thereon. A violation of 160.2715 is a misdemeanor and as such is punishable by up to ninety days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.00 (the maximum possible punishment for a misdemeanor).

"Unsafe conditions for both drivers and public utilities attempting to clear roads as well as extra time and unnecessary expense are created by such actions. Please find a suitable location for snow within the confines of the property being cleared."

For those who don't adhere to Minnesota's policy of pushing snow across the road -- remember one thing -- what you are doing is a misdemeanor and is punishable by jail time and a hefty fine. It may seem harmless enough but if you push snow across the roadway or street and it freezes, someone comes along and has an accident because of this, you could be held responsible which would result in much more than you bargained for.

So think before you push snow across the road, highway or street. What would be your reaction if one of your children hit an uneven patch of snow and ice that someone had carelessly left behind and had a fatal accident?

Before the unthinkable happens, know the laws and don't push snow into or across the roadway.)"