

Mailbox Damage from Snow Plowing

With our first snowfall of the winter season upon us already, it is a good time to remind residents about the Township policy on mailbox damage.

Snow plowing does bring complaints from residents who find that their mailbox was knocked over after one of these snow or ice storms. While our plow truck drivers make every effort to avoid mailboxes, they do, on occasion, hit or knock one over. It is also possible that mailboxes can be knocked over by the heavy snow that is thrown off the plow. The Township will only assume responsibility for damage to a mailbox if some part of the plow or vehicle actually hits it.

Procedure for Mailbox Damage Claims

1. If it is believed that a mailbox was struck by a Township plow vehicle the Director of Public Works should be contacted by calling (610) 865-3291.
2. The Director of Public Works will visit the site and try to determine (both visually as well as talking with the operator involved) if the mailbox was actually hit.
3. If the Director of Public Works determines the Township is responsible, he shall provide an action form with the resident's name, address and the resident shall submit the bill for the damages to the Township. Township will advise resident of method of reimbursement via Township or insurance carrier.
4. If after viewing the site and talking with the operator, the Director of Public Works does not believe the mailbox was hit by the plow or vehicle he will notify the resident that it is their responsibility to repair/replace the mailbox.
5. If the resident does not agree with this determination, the Director of Public Works will complete an action form and send it to the Township for Management/Insurance review.

PennDOT offers the following suggestions to help reduce the possibility of a mailbox being damaged by routine winter maintenance operations:

- Homeowners should make sure their mailbox is firmly supported and placed as far beyond the shoulder of the highway as the postal carrier can reach.
- Place a 6 to 8 inch piece of reflective tape on the mailbox to help snowplow operators see the mailbox at night.
- Remove snow from around the mailbox, but avoid throwing snow back on the roadway.
- If the mailbox is located within the legal right of way and damage was experienced in the past, you may want to consider relocating your mailbox.
- Homeowners can also consider installing a cantilevered mailbox support that will swing out of harm's way.

Plans for building the cantilevered mailbox support can be obtained from a PennDOT county maintenance office. 1-800-FIX-Road or at:

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/penndot/Districts/district4.nsf/mailboxes.htm?OpenPage>