

# Maintenance Advisory

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## Guidance on Using Wing-Plows

The use of wing-plows for winter operations in Michigan has increased over the past few years. Using wing-plows can make a winter operations program more effective and efficient; however, a vehicle equipped with a wing-plow attachment may only occupy one thru lane of a traveled way with the wing-plow in use on the adjacent shoulder or turn lane.

Vehicles equipped with a wing-plow attachment shall not occupy two lanes of thru traffic at a time. Several accidents have been caused by motorists trying to pass snowplows and not seeing the wing-plow in the traveling lane because of the snow cloud generated by this operation. Below are several photos illustrating this.

In rare instances, exceptions to this advisory may be granted by the Chief Operations Officer upon written request from the Region Engineer. Such requests must be very specific and include the following:

1. Reason for requesting an exception.
2. Specific routes and limits where the exception is being requested.
3. Days and hours of operation that the exception will be used.
4. Conditions governing when the exception may be used, i.e., not during storm conditions.
5. Steps to be taken to ensure that wing-plow can be seen by motorists and plan for ensuring that any lights or reflective devices are in proper working order and cleared of ice and snow before wing is placed in driving lane.



**Damaged wing-plow**



**Snow cloud behind wing-plow**



**Semi truck after hitting wing-plow**



**Proper use of wing-plow**