

Maintenance Memorandum

Date: May 24, 1982

**Subject: Letter of Instruction #124.01
Removal of Dead Animals and Foreign Matter from the Roadway**

The subject Letter of Instruction dated March 13, 1980 requires slight revision. It should be removed from your files and this memorandum will replace it.

All foreign matter and dead animals which could be hazardous to traffic should be removed from the pavement and shoulder of state trunklines to the side of the roadway as soon as reasonably possible. Final disposal of dead animals and foreign matter may be accomplished under Routine Maintenance Activity 124.

Disposal of domestic dead animals is the responsibility of the owner. Whenever possible, the owner should be notified. The local law enforcement agency is generally willing to assist in this notification.

By application of logic, the Department of Natural Resources has reluctantly agreed that they have the responsibility for deer and other wild animals. When a deer or bear is killed on the right of way, the local District Office of the Department of Natural Resources should be notified.

When the responsible party cannot be located, or does not dispose of the dead animals within a reasonable time, Maintenance forces may dispose of these animals in an approved manner. Such cases should normally be limited to urban areas, or rural areas where the dead animals are located near a residence and will become an odoriferous nuisance.

In consideration of drastic personnel reductions within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as well as other state agencies in instances when dead animals have been removed from the traveled way, or when we come upon dead animals within the highway right of way, discretion may be exercised and dead animals disposed of if it is reasonably convenient.

Donald E. Orne
Engineer of Maintenance
(Signed copy on file)