

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 2023 SAFETY TIPS

These tips are intended for residents and property owners of Brookfield, VT but may apply to neighboring towns as well.

IT IS MUUDD SEASON!!!

The first thing to remember about mud season is that despite the best efforts of the road crew/highway department, the roads are going to be a lot less than perfect for the next few weeks. Paved roads will have frost heaves and pot holes. Gravel roads will range from gooey to swampy. Some areas will have some really impressive ruts and mud holes.

Given this reality, it is up to us, the drivers to demonstrate our good judgement and superior driving skills.

- It is going to take longer to go anywhere and that amount of time will vary from day to day.
- There will be plenty of opportunities to damage your vehicle and get totally stuck by going too fast. The consequences for going too slow are generally far less.
- There may be nights when you park your vehicle and walk past the large and deep mudhole to get home.
- Carry mud boots, your charged cell phone and a warm blanket in your vehicle. Remember that large mud holes are often where the cell service is the worst. You may have to walk to get service.
- If you are going to walk or bicycle on the roads, be aware that motorists may be challenged by the road conditions and you should pick safe places to move to if one or more vehicles approach you from either direction. Please pick safety over who has the right of way.
- If you like to drive up Class 4 roads to prove how impressive your 4X4 is, remember how hard and costly it may be to get a wrecker to you.
- Consider setting up an email network for your road or neighborhood keeping everyone aware of serious spots on the road and when to take alternate routes or methods to travel. One person on the road or neighborhood can politely keep the road crew aware of the bad spots.
- Cheer up, by the time you get really good at it, it will be over, until next year.
- When we start to complain about Mud Season, we should think about all of the bad weather events in other parts of the country and the world and we shouldn't feel so bad.

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