

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 2024 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 AGAIN!!!

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 with lots of bumps. Some areas will have really impressive ruts and mud holes. We have already had several mud seasons to cause stress or damage to our cars this year. Please take use extra caution.

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.
- Traveling at or near the speed limit may not be a safe option on some roads or portions of a road at some times.
- There may be nights when you park your vehicle and walk past the large and deep mudhole(s) 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 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 the flooding last July here in Vermont. and maybe we won't feel so bad.

Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee: Stuart Edson, Michael Rutkovsky, Dan Mason, Mike Stoddard and Lew Stowell