



“Shake Your Mailbox” News Release

St. Joseph County Road Commission encourages residents to shake their mailboxes this month

Centreville, Mich. – Before the snow begins to fly, St. Joseph County Road Commission asks Michiganders to prepare by shaking their mailboxes this month.

Over time, mailbox posts can rot or become wobbly. Shaking a mailbox allows residents to know if it is secure. Snow from snowplows has a surprising force that can topple an unstable mailbox, so it’s important to make sure it’s placed solidly in the ground.

Residents should prepare mailboxes for winter by tightening screws and ensuring the post and box are secure enough to endure large amounts of snow that is thrown. If the mailbox moves when shaken, the box may need to be repaired or replaced before winter.

“Shaking your mailbox is an important way to avoid damage from the impact of flying snow this winter,” John Lindsey, managing director of St. Joseph County Road Commission, said. “But mailboxes and posts in good condition can withstand the force of plowed snow. By preparing beforehand, residents can ensure that their mailboxes are stable and safe this winter.”

County road commissions are not liable for damage done while fulfilling their regular duties and/or maintaining the roadway, except in limited situations like a direct hit. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and St. Joseph County Road Commission have policies in place regarding replacement of mailboxes that have been hit by a snowplow.

“Our number-one job is to maintain a safe and efficient road and right-of-way system,” John Lindsey said. “It is a resident’s responsibility to ensure his or her mailbox is secure. Damage to posts and receptacles can often be prevented by proper routine maintenance.”

If you have questions on mailbox maintenance, please contact the St. Joseph County Road Commission at 269.467.6393 ext. 10 or 50 or jmayuiers@sjcrc.com.