



COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SH-SH-SHAKE YOUR MAILBOX

2ND ANNUAL SHAKE YOUR MAILBOX DAY SET FOR OCTOBER 23

Lansing, Mich. – As Michigan residents relish the brilliant hues of fall, Michigan's County Road Commissions are asking them to shake their mailbox in preparation for the next seasonal color, white.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has officially proclaimed Saturday, Oct. 23 as the 2nd Annual Shake Your Mailbox Day in Michigan. Shake Your Mailbox Day is a cooperative effort of county road agencies and the U.S. Postal Service.

"What started in 2008 as an innovative idea in one northern county is now a statewide endeavor," John Niemela, County Road Association of Michigan Director, said. "Many homeowners have embraced the practice of changing batteries in smoke detectors when clocks are changed for daylight savings time. Our goal is to encourage homeowners to make time each fall to prepare their mailbox for winter."

Rural mailboxes are often damaged during winter maintenance operations. In most cases, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware, and not the result of being struck by a passing snow plow.

"Damage to mailbox posts and receptacles can often be prevented by proper routine maintenance," Niemela said. "Many of the mailboxes damaged by thrown snow have become lose after years of use.

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If the mailbox moves when shaken, this is likely an indication the mailbox and/or post may not be able to withstand standard snow removal operations and should be repaired or replaced prior to the onset of winter.

CRAM and the U.S. Postal Service are reminding Michigan residents that this is also a good time to replace loose hinges on the mailbox door, replace or add reflective house numbers to allow postal workers and emergency responders to easily find your home, and verify your mailbox meets safety standards.

Mailboxes are one of the only objects allowed by law to be placed in the road right-of-way. The location and construction of mailboxes must conform to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Postal Service and standards established by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in "A Guide to Erecting Mailboxes on Highways." If residents have questions on what is allowed, they should contact their county road agency.

The County Road Association of Michigan represents Michigan's 83 county road agencies that collectively maintain more than 75 percent of Michigan roads, the third largest county road system in the nation.

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