



CLAY FIRE

18355 Auten Road • South Bend, IN 46637 Telephone: (574) 272-2144
Fax: (574) 272-4043

For Immediate Release

Date: Saturday, January 08, 2011

Subject: Fire Hydrants Buried by Snow

Contact Person: Ron Melser Jr., Deputy Fire Marshal

Heavy Snow Fall and Fire Hydrants Buried by Snow

With all the recent record lake effect snowfall in Michiana, the snowplow crews are working hard keeping the roads clear of snow. This makes the snow pile up on the side of the road and covers fire hydrants. The more snow that falls, the deeper the snow piles up past the curbs. Fire hydrants are being covered by snow and it is creating a great concern for local fire departments. When so much snow has been plowed off the road, it makes seeing and accessing the fire hydrants very challenging. It is important when there is a fire, to be able to locate the fire hydrant and be able to get water from the hydrant as fast as possible. Being able to access water quickly can mean the difference in saving a life or a structure. The large amount of snow that needs to be removed from the hydrants could take up to 10-15 valuable minutes for firefighters to find the hydrant, remove the snow from around it to be able to get the supply lines attached to get water to the truck to fight the fire.

Clay Fire is asking that if you live by a fire hydrant, please take the extra time and clear a 3' diameter circle around the hydrant and make a one-foot wide path from the curb to the hydrant. This will be a great help when accessing a fire hydrant in an emergency.

###

Ron Melser Jr.
Deputy Fire Marshal
574-272-2144