

ISSUE 18
SNOW SEASON UPDATE

We are now a few weeks into the 2019 snow season. Some of our customers have had a relatively easy winter, while others have seen their fair share of the white stuff, along with ice.

The last storm to hit was a tough one. The heavy wet snow, followed by the high winds and low temperatures has been tough on equipment.

With this in mind Watson Diesel Municipal has started to track the types of common failures that have come into our shops, in an effort to help our customers better prepare for the future. Below is a list of the types of failures that we see.

1. LIGHTS AND LIGHT WIRING. This is a big one. Some of these issues are related to light assemblies due to the construction of the light base itself, and others to the quality of the wiring installation. Having quality sealed connections where wires are joined is essential. Along with sealed connections, wires need to be routed as such that the accumulation of snow and ice do not weigh on the wires and pull on them. The constant vibration of plowing can have a tendency to work plow mounted lights loose, wearing the attachment point on the light fixture and crack the metal light body. A quick double check of these bolts after every plowing goes a long way! We also see random light relay problems. This is a tough one as there are multiple relays involved in the lighting system to be able to switch the lights from truck lights to plow lights. These seem to be a wear item and there is not a lot you can do about it. We try to mount the light controls and connections in a safe and dry place but with the very busy areas under the trucks hood and grill areas makes this a challenge.

2. LOOSE AND BROKEN PLOW PARTS. This one is common to every plow, from a pick up truck mounted plow to a heavy-duty municipal plow. Let's face it – plowing is tough on components. No matter how well a plow and plow frame is constructed, the constant vibration and pounding can loosen bolts on the cutting edge all the way back to the plow frame to truck chasses mounts. After each plowing session a cleaning of the truck can help reveal these areas and a quick pre-trip inspection of the nuts and bolts goes a long way. A few years back we had a newer truck come into our shop with a failed engine. The crankshaft had failed on the thrust surface and sent debris throughout the engine. This truck was a low mileage unit and nothing could be found to cause this unusual failure. Further inspection showed that the front mounted crankshaft driven hydraulic pump on the plow frame had been welded to the truck frame. These welds had broken and pushed the plow frame/ pump mount back and with not enough slip in the pump driveshaft it had pushed on the crankshaft causing a catastrophic failure. Post plowing inspections are essential!

3. HYDRAULIC HOSES. One would think this would be a common problem. But in reality, we don't see much of this. Good routing procedures and quality components really pay off in that area. Once again, keeping an eye on hoses that are rubbing together or where they run close to a crossmember etc. These are key spots for hose failures.

4. ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS. This is the problem with new technology. Everything from your windshield wipers to your transmission is controlled by a computer or micro-processor. Not a lot you can do about this one except make friends with your OEM truck dealer. This said before you select your next truck chassis, check out the service department of the truck dealer that wants to sell you your next truck. Find out if that dealer has road service and a history of responsiveness to customer service. Some do – and some do not! Along the same lines most of our snow removal equipment is also controlled by electronics of some fashion. Watson Diesel Municipals service technicians not only are knowledgeable of these systems, but have the parts in stock to repair the system along with their **Rapid Response Program** that send our people to your location. When you call with a truck breakdown in the middle a snow event – no one wants to hear “we will put you on the schedule for next week”.

So, these are some of the bold face items that we see day in and day out.

Keep these in mind and remember...

If you have a problem,
truck chassis related or snow removal equipment related - **call us day or night.**

Remember - **Watson Diesel Municipals'** job is simply to make your job easier!

We are all in this together!

Let's be safe out there!



OPEN HOUSE
SAVE THE DATE
*** APRIL 10, 2019 ***