

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Harvest season requires drivers and farm vehicle operators to be safe, patient and alert

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on a news release for the **October State Patrol Law of the Month on fall harvest safety (Chapter 347)**, a proposed guidance document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website:

<https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/act369/?id=OPA277&uri=file:OctoberHarvest&division=OPA>

2. Mailing written comments to: Office of
Public Affairs
Wisconsin Department of Transportation 4822
Madison Yards Way
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at wisconsindot.gov to allow for ongoing comment.

AGENCY CONTACT

DOTOPAGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV

October 3, 2019

Wisconsin State Patrol October Law of the Month

Contact: (Rank, first name, last name,) Commander, (Region—Post) (Phone #)

Harvest season requires drivers and farm vehicle operators to be safe, patient and alert

With another fall harvest season underway, the Wisconsin State Patrol is reminding motorists and farm vehicle operators to be safe, patient, and share the road.

“This is an especially busy time of year for farmers, so motorists should be patient, provide farm vehicles extra room to operate and anticipate the possibility they may slow down or turn,” said (Rank, first name, last name) of the Wisconsin State Patrol (region/post). “Ag vehicle operators must ensure they use appropriate lights, signage and signals, and comply with weight restrictions.” Other safety tips for motorists and farm vehicle operators:

Motorist responsibilities:

- Scan the road ahead and be ready to slow down when you see slow-moving farm vehicles.
- Be patient and very cautious if you decide to pass. In Wisconsin, it is illegal to pass an ag vehicle or “implement of husbandry” in a no passing zone.
- When passing, consider the possibility of the farmer turning left onto a roadway, driveway or field entrance.

Ag vehicle operator responsibilities:

- Know the [lighting and marking requirements](#) for ag vehicles. These requirements draw attention to the unique size, shape and speed of ag vehicles and alert motorists that caution is required. When traveling on a roadway, stay as far to the right as safely possible.
- Be familiar with road weight restrictions. [DATCP](#) provides a statewide map with information about weight limits. More information about related permits, exemption and weight limits can be found on the [WisDOT website](#).

Since 2011, there have been 1,280 reported crashes involving motorists and farm vehicles in Wisconsin resulting in 640 injuries and 21 fatalities.

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NOTE: View this document online at the WisDOT Newsroom: <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/default.aspx>.