



## **Sleep deprivation article/Video ABC News**

Oct 22, 2012

Dear Member

As many of you know we are coming into the snow season. The SMEA members that plow and remove snow have long been very concerned for their health and safety while operating plows or removing snow while either shoveling or snow blowing. We want our members to be safe as they operate under these most difficult conditions with appropriate rest periods. For several years now it is our belief that proper rest was not been administered properly, when workers are removing snow for long periods of time. Although the city has been more aware that rest periods are needed and have attempted to give rest periods, numerous news articles and DOT laws have revealed that scheduled rest periods after continuous hours of operation must be given.

The SMEA has attempted to bargain rest period language into our contracts for the past ten years, whenever our members are driving or laboring for long periods at a time without proper rest. These rest periods are a common practice in many other cities and towns across the state and nation and should be given without loss of pay. Our DPW members follow the DOT laws and are subject to monthly random drug/alcohol testing as well as testing for reasonable suspicion. Our members willfully and contractually abide by these DOT laws. The City cannot have one without the other, they should be following the guidelines/law for proper **(Hours of Service Regulations (49 CFR Part 395))** which put limits in place for when and how long commercial vehicle drivers may drive. For the past several years the SMEA leadership has been requesting that the joint safety committee convene to discuss their concerns with the city. The committee would like voice our concern to the city and will issue a letter on our behalf of our members to bring awareness to this very important safety concern as it affects not only the workers but the resident's safety as well.

We want everyone to be safe during the snow season and proper rest for snow removal employees as it is paramount.

**Attached is an article and a link to a video produced and written by ABC news through a AAA report on drowsy while driving.**

<http://abcnews.go.com/WN/driving-sleepy-common-deadly-thought-aaa-research-finds/story?id=12088552>

Thank you

In Unity There is Strength

Ed Halloran

SMEA President