

WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MARK WASYLYSHYN
Sheriff



ERIC L. REYNOLDS
Chief Deputy

01-21-2019

Dear Citizens of Wood County,

I apologize for not putting out my stance on snow emergency levels in Wood County earlier.

I trust the citizens of Wood County to use common sense when driving. I also trust employers to use common sense on when they should close their businesses.

The local news stations do an excellent job of reporting road conditions. With the live video, latest radar and satellite images people can make very informed decisions whether they should travel. Numerous weather apps are also helpful.

The Ohio Revised code gives the Sheriff the authority to close the roads. The three levels are not in the law. Even though the levels are not part of the law the levels are often used for a major storm where the closing of the roads is likely. The intent of the levels is to allow people to prepare for potential closure of roads (level 1 or level 2) then the actual closure level 3. After the storm lessens and conditions get better the lower levels allow the citizens to know the roads are getting better. IF the storm is not intense enough that the likelihood of needing to close the roads there is not a need for the levels. The levels were NOT intended for every snow event.

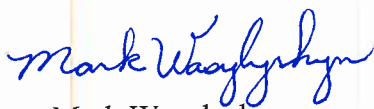
During Saturday's storm all of the main roads were passible by simply driving slower. We did not have whiteout conditions. My deputies were continually updating me. I personally went out multiple times throughout the snow event to check the road conditions. I also met with the county highway garage. The highway garage and my deputies believed that we would not need to close the roads for this storm.

We are very fortunate in Wood County that our highway garage plows snow 24/7 when needed. This is not the case with all counties. ODOT also had numerous plow trucks clearing their roads. In addition, all the cities, villages, townships have plows.

Of course, when main roads are not passible, or whiteout conditions exist or when ODOT, County Highway garage, or cities stop plowing due to poor conditions I will declare a level 3 and close all the roads.

I hope this clarifies my thought processes regarding snow level emergencies for the citizens of Wood County.

Sincerely,



Mark Wasylyshyn

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