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Crow Wing County Sign Technician Recognized for Keeping County Roads Safe

Crow Wing County's only sign technician was recognized for ensuring that nearly 20,000 signs throughout the County are properly installed and maintained. Bill Simon has been working for the Highway department since 1986 and been the County's sign worker for the past 10 years. The former dairy farmer says the most common signs he replaces are stop signs and chevrons. "It's a science to figure out the best placement of signs and not have too many to over saturate so drivers still pay attention to them."

Crow Wing County covers almost 1,000 square miles of roads. Many reports from residents about the condition of signs keep the Highway Department aware of the highest priorities. "It is a common occurrence for signs to be knocked down or destroyed by errant vehicles. Imagine if a stop sign at a busy intersection was not replaced for a few days. The timeliness of the sign worker ensures the safety of the traveling public," says County Engineer Tim Bray.

A new truck purchased in January that is bigger with more upgrades will be an even safer way to install signs and avoid some of the elements. Bill says the extending platform will now let him climb on and extend out into the ditches. "Sometimes I used to be waist deep in snow to replace or install a sign. What most people don't realize is that this job is physically demanding and at times hazardous. The biggest challenge is speeding cars while I'm working on the side of county roads."

Bill is also responsible for night time inspections on 5,000 signs per year to ensure proper levels of headlight reflectivity. He commonly fills in for absent snow plow operators on any of the county's 18 plow routes. Bill Simon retired after 31 years with the county and was recognized for his years of service at a Crow Wing County Board meeting on Tuesday February 27th.

If you notice a road sign in need of repair or replacement contact the Crow Wing County Highway Department at 218-824-1110.

If you have a question about a specific job at Crow Wing County that you'd like to know more about contact the Crow Wing County Administrators office at 218-824-1067.

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.