Rock patrol

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It's a critical, but often overlooked, aspect of ITD's goal to improve driver safety.

The question arises each spring – people wonder why they see snowplows still attached to Idaho Transportation Department trucks driving on bare roads.

The answer is simple: These trucks are patrolling for fallen rock on the highways.

Stretches of mountain road gather rock every day. Trucks with attached snowplows can remove it immediately, before someone hits the dangerous obstacles.

Rocks can be as large as boulders several feet in diameter.

Maintenance personnel patrol highways with a history of rockfall. Rocks fall from hillsides when disrupted by changing weather, earth movement, etc.

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