

Snow & Ice Policy

2022/2023

What you need to know!

- It ain't easy!
- It ain't quick!
- It is worth it!
- Keep it Simple!
- Make it a living document!
- Find your key players!

How do you make a policy?

- Talk to everyone, your best performers, your worst performers, your leaders, ride in their plows, look at your gps
- Find out what you can measure, centerline miles, lane miles, storm events, tons of material, hours worked
- Start measuring what your not measuring, pavement temp, number of storms, how long you worked, total snowfall.
- Take pictures
- Write Down what worked and didn't work
- Talk to each other
- Repeat!

Purpose

- To Provide CONSISTENT service.
- To Provide CLEAR goals.
- To Provide QUALITY training.

Definitions

- Pavement Temperature – the actual temperature of the Road, this is what determines what works.
- Salt – Sodium Chloride, melts snow & ice, works great to 15°F, but we will use it down to 5.
- Sand – Melts NOTHING, abrasive provides traction for about 3 passing cars.
- Brine – liquid salt, that we spray on the roads prior to a storm event up to 48 hrs in advance at 60 gallons/lane mile, will use down to 5F.
- SuperMax – brine mixed with beet juice, that we spray on roads prior to a storm event up to 5 days in advance at 25 gallons/ lane mile, will use down to -15F.
- We are no longer using Super Max

Definitions

- Weather Service – Contracted Weather Channel.
- Curb to Curb – short way of saying all of the pavement.
- Underbody Plows – plows under the frame dump truck typically used for snows less than 6" in depth.
- Front Plows – plows mounted on the front of the truck typically used for snows greater than 6", can have trip edges.
- Benching – is the act of clearing snow away from the edge of the road to provide room for additional snow.

Definitions

- Level of Service – This is the goal pavement condition for a type of road after a certain amount of time has passed after a storm event.
- This is a mental picture you should have of what the different kinds of roads will look like on your route after a certain number of shifts.
- Example = Gravel Road has been opened by the end of the shift.

Level of Service Definitions

Bare Pavement



Bare Wheel Paths



Mains

are any of the following:

- Multi-lane Roads

- Have more than 5,000 VPD

- Main Through Route

Level of Service

- Bare Pavement

- 48 hours (2 Day Shifts)

Treatment

- Salt/Brine entire lane/Plow



Level of Service Definitions

Passable



What is it?



Secondaries

Are any of the following:

Chip Seal Roads

Interior Subdivision Roads

Paved Roads that Aren't Through

Level of Service

Bare Wheel Paths

48 hrs (2 Day Shifts)

Treatment

Plow



Hot Spots

Are any of the following:

Roundabouts, Bridge Decks,
Curves, Hills, Intersections, Drifting Areas,
Flooding Areas, In front of Schools, Hospitals,
Police Stations, Fire Stations, and Highway
Garages

Level of Service

Passable

48 hrs (2 Day Shifts)

Treatment

Salt/Brine/Plow/Sand



Gravel

Are Gravel!

Level of Service

Passable

8 hrs (1 Day Shift)

Treatment

Plow

Sand if necessary to find road



End of Roads

Are any of the following:

Cul-de-Sacs

Turn Arouds

Dead Ends

Level of Service

Passable

48 hrs (2 Day Shifts)

Treatment

Plow



Additions

Sidewalks

- Adjacent to Road or off roadway multi-use Paths
- Level of Service is Bare Pavement in 1 week (ADA)
- Plow

Inlets

- Inlets, drain decks, storm drains
- Level of Service is open in 1 week.

When Does Level of Service Start?

During Storm

- Plowing everything once in and once out, trying to keep every road open.
- Plows will be down, but you might not run material, that is the Supervisors call.
- Only in declared State of Emergencies are we working 15 hrs.
- Goal is to be everywhere once in and once out in 4 hours.

After Storm

- Level of Service Starts the moment the Storm ends.
- Plowing, material per Supervision.
- 12 Hours Max, if someone finishes before everyone else they help out.

CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

8 Hours

- Mains are Bare Wheel Paths
- Hot Spots are Passable
- Secondaries are Passable
- Gravel Roads are Passable
- End of Roads are Passable

12 Hours

- Mains are Passable
- Hot Spots are Passable
- Secondaries are Passable
- Gravel Roads are Passable
- End of Roads are Passable

CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

Sundays & Holidays

- Mains are Passable
- Hot Spots are Passable
- Secondaries are Passable
- Gravel Roads are Passable
- End of Roads are Passable

Nights

- Mains are Passable
- Hot Spots are Passable

Brining is Anti-Icing

Where?

- Mains
- Round-a-bouts
- Bridge Decks
- Schools
- Fire Stations
- Hospitals
- Highway Garages
- Hills
- Curves
- Intersections

What do I do?

- Put the plow down
- Look in the mirror
- Is it working?
- Yes – Keep on Trucking
- No – Salt or Sand

Subdivisions

Secondaries

- Entrance Plowing – pull clear through the approach then back up and make the pass in.
- Extra Wide Roads – Make Second pass if there are homes on it and more than 3' from curb
- Normal Roads – Keep Trucking
- Hot Spots

End of Roads

- Cul-de-Sacs get plowed backwards and cleaned out later with pickups, superduties, backhoes, and payloaders

What If?

- There's a White Out – Pull Off Road and radio your Supervisor
- An Accident not involving you – call 911.
- An Accident involving you – Call your Supervisor
- There's a car parked in the road – plow around it, note address for Supervisor
- You damaged a mailbox – Let your Supervisor know
- Someone asks you to plow their drive – NO!
- We use someone's drive as a turn around – Turnaround with the plow down.

Radios

- In the yard loading – Talk around
 - Plowing – Highway
 - If everyone shouldn't hear it you shouldn't say it!
- Why?
 - We need to communicate!
 - Who's listening?
 - Supervisor
 - Plowing Partner
 - Other Garages
 - Management
 - EMA
 - Sheriff's Department

Calibration

Why?

Using the right tool the right way tends to get the job done, better, quicker, and cheaper.

And we're all taxpayers.



Test

What's the pavement condition on this road?

Bare Pavement

Bare Wheel Paths

Passable

Running Water

I'm Done!



Test

It's Been 8 hrs plowing and this road is a Secondary Road, what do you do?

Plow Down

Salt

Sand

I'm Done!



Test

What's the pavement condition on this road?

Bare Pavement

Bare Wheel Paths

Passable

Running Water

I'm Done!



Test

This is a Brining Route Road, what do you do as a plow driver?

Plow Down

Salt

Sand

Plow and Salt

Plow and Sand

Go get a donut I'm Done!



Things to Remember

Snow on the Road plow down!

If it's a Brining Route Road check with the plow before Salt or Sanding.

Always assume they don't see you!

We're not done until our garage is done.

