

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

A critical aspect of highway maintenance in winter is the effective and efficient control of snow and ice. The Anne Arundel County Bureau of Highways is keenly aware of its responsibility to provide safety and mobility for motorists on county maintained roads during winter storms, and at the same time, do so in a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner.

Several years ago, The Bureau of Highways embarked on a major effort to reduce road salt usage and intensify environmentally friendly practices during winter operations.

Anti-icing is now performed on most major corridors, increasing safety for more motorists across the county. Our maintenance shops track the salt usage of every snow plow operator, allowing Highways managers to identify plow operators who are getting the job done with lower amounts of salt.

The Bureau of Highways continues to test and deploy new materials, equipment and strategies. They also continue the deployment of an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system that improves communications with plow trucks and allows better coordination of our resources.

Sensible Salting

Sensible salting requires, among other things, careful application of salt, good spreading equipment, calibration of spreaders, automatic controls, adequate covered storage, proper maintenance around storage areas and an awareness by all who use salt of the need to protect the environment. Proper training for maintenance personnel include:

- Proper Covered Storage
- Good maintenance of storage areas
- Good equipment maintenance and knowledge of equipment
- Proper spreader calibration
- Proper salt application
- Concern for our environment as well as the public's safety

This activity provides safe pavement in an environmentally sensitive manner. By preventing the bonding of snow and ice to pavement and clearing all snow and ice from pavements as soon as possible, snow fighting materials are used most efficiently with minimal loss to the environment. Benefits of adapting sensible salting practices are apparent:

- Traffic keeps moving
- Commerce and industry go on at near normal pace.
- There are fewer accident, injuries and deaths
- MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.
- Emergency vehicles get through.