Winter Maintenance: After the Storm

Well, that slams the lid on another storm. Now take a look at what you did and why before the next storm hits.

After the storm, when snow and ice control operations have ended, evaluate what was done, how well it worked, and what could be changed to improve operations.

- Accurately record your material use at the end of your shift.
- Attend a post-storm meeting in the shop to evaluate your operations.
- Look for opportunities to try new and improved practices.
- Clean and check all equipment.
- Report any hazards such as low-hanging branches, raised utilities, snow accumulation on bridges, or other potential problems.
- At the end of the season, clean and maintain the trucks, tanks, brine-making systems, and pumps according to manufacturers' specifications.
- Place all piles on an impervious pad and cover them. This

Example Daily Salt/Sand Use Ticket

Operator			Shift		Date	
Truck No.			Capacity			
Weather					Temp.	
Stockpile	Route	Yards Sand	Yards Salt	Yards Used	Yards Returned	Liquid Gallons
TOTALS						

Example Loader Ticket: Daily Salt/Sand Issued

Operator		Shift		Date			
Loader No.	Capacity of Bucket						
Stockpile	Truck #	Yards Sand	Yards Salt	Stockpile	Truck #	Yards Sand	Yards Salt
TOTALS							

includes salt and salt/sand mixes.

Documenting and Charting

Good documentation helps you use less material, reduce costs and environmental impacts, and run a more effective snow and ice control program. Unless you document and chart, you cannot measure what you are doing.

- Track your material usage.
- Understand the storm conditions and the target level of service for each route.
- Refine your procedures and material use based on observations.
- Share observations to improve operations and learn from each other.
- Use forms (See Figures 1-4.) to record and track your work and observations.
- Complete forms at the end of your shift.
- Turn in documentation forms to your supervisor. GE

Example Documentation Form For Anti-Icing

Anti-icing Route Data Form				
Truck Station: Date:				
Air Temp.	Pavement Temp.	Relative Humidity	Dew Point	Sky
Reason for applying: Route: Chemical: Application Time: Application Amount: Observation (1st day): Observation (After event): Observation (Before next application): Name:				

Bare Lanes Data Collection Sheet

Event Began		Event Ended		Event Type	
Date	Time	Date	Time	(snow, rain, both, drifting)	
Description	Route #	Bare Lanes Lost		Bare Lanes Regained	
		Date	Time	Date	Time

The preceding article is based on material excepted from the Minnesota Snow and Ice Control Field Handbook for Snowplow Operators *(Manual 2005-1), published by the Minnesota Local Road Research Board, Mn/DOT Research Services Section and Office of Maintenance, www.lrrb.org.*