



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Knox County's Highway Department ready for winter weather

Knoxville, Tenn. – Winter is officially here and Knox County Engineering & Public Works is prepared for colder days ahead, despite the fact that the cost of road salt has nearly doubled since last year. Last year, road salt cost the county \$66.50 per ton, compared to \$115 per ton this year.

Although prices have increased, the Knox County Highway Department plans maintain the same road coverage with deicing operations. This will be made possible by increasing brine use and thanks to new salt spreader boxes that allow for the more efficient application of road salt.

Knox County's Highway's Department has approximately 4,000 tons of road salt and 25,000 gallons of brine in storage and ready to use.

All salt and brine machinery has been tested, and 14 salt trucks and 11 brine trucks are ready for service.

Over the past few years, Knox County's Highway Department has been using brine on major roadways and trouble spots during the winter. The brine system includes three 1,600 gallon tanks mounted on tandem-axle dump trucks and eight 1,000 gallon tanks used with single-axle dump trucks.

Salt brine is a liquid mixture of salt and water that is applied to roadways to stop snow from sticking to pavements.

Prior to and during any winter precipitation, the on-call supervisors monitor road conditions in the county and communicate with authorities to determine necessary precautions.

During winter storms, residents should stay off the roads whenever possible until crews have cleared the snow. Workers will start clearing main thoroughfares and known problem areas first, and then move on to complaints and secondary roads.

Depending on the severity of the weather, Knox County has a fleet of dump trucks equipped with snow plows, salt spreaders and brine tanks ready for dispatch. The county also has a dozen four-wheel-drive trucks equipped with smaller snow plows for use on more narrow roads.

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