



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Knox County Crews to Continue Clearing Roads Throughout Week

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— The Knox County Highway Department has worked around the clock since last Saturday (Jan. 12), treating and removing ice and snow on area roads and will continue to do so throughout the rest of the week.

Last week, Knox County and Knoxville experienced six days in a row of four or more inches of snow covering the ground – only the second time that’s happened here since 1910, according to the US National Weather Service. This includes the famous “Blizzard of ’93.”

Knox County crews expended long hours during that time – more than 6,000 employee hours – and used roughly 3,500 tons of salt and 70,000 gallons of brine fighting the snowstorm.

The Highway Department equipped 14 trucks with brine spreaders or equipment to spread granular road salt for use throughout all seven highway districts. Knox County also had 24 snowplows attached to trucks on the roads. They pre-treated 1,718 lane miles of primary and secondary roads, and other known trouble spots with brine, ahead of the winter storm before switching to salt and plows.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said he “wouldn’t trust any other crews to operate in a snowstorm like the one we just experienced.”

“Our folks did an amazing job, and I can’t thank them enough,” Mayor Jacobs said. “They worked night and day for over a week in hard, cold weather and I hope everyone recognizes their efforts.”

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs thanked Erin Read, the executive director of the Knoxville-Knox County Office of Housing Stability. Read oversaw a pilot program that included four warming centers set up around the city and county.

Working with local churches, the Salvation Army, KARM, and other non-profits, the shelters housed and fed hundreds of people each night, including 288 on Saturday.

“There were many businesses and services providers that donated food and helped bring guests to safety,” Read said. “But the biggest thanks must go to the hundreds of volunteers who gave their donations and their time, even overnight, to keep their neighbors safe and warm. You bring light, warmth, and love into our community!”

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