



Roadway Snow and Ice Control

Q: What does the Delaware County Engineer's Office maintain?

A: We maintain 345 centerline miles of county roadways, including over 800 lane-miles of pavement surfaces. The road widths vary from 18 feet, in some of our rural areas, up to 120 feet wide in our more urbanized areas.

Q: How do you prepare for upcoming winter storm events?

A: Usually 1-2 days before a forecasted snow storm, our Operations Management Team determines what will be needed to address the first 12-hours of that storm event. Of course, all plans are revised as needed throughout the event.

Q: Do you "pre-treat" the roadway surfaces?

A: The roads are often pre-treated with salt, brine and other de-icing chemicals before a snow storm actually arrives. This helps prevent snow and ice from building-up and sticking to the pavement surface.

Q: How long do snowplow drivers usually work?

A: The snowplow drivers work in shifts for up to 12 hours. Additional reserve drivers assist to fill-in if needed during longer snow storms.

Q: How many snowplow trucks do you have?

A: We operate up to 18 snowplow trucks during any given storm event. There are 16 fixed plow routes, with 2 additional trucks traveling throughout the county to assist wherever they are needed.

Q: Where do you keep your road salt?

A: We currently maintain 2 salt storage facilities; a 6,500 ton facility on US 42 north of Delaware, and a 3,500 ton facility on Rome Corners Road in Berkshire Township. We are constructing a third storage facility on Sawmill Parkway in Liberty Township, which will store 4,200 tons of road salt, and is expected to be completed in 2021. Additionally, we also sell road salt at our cost from each of these facilities to our local government partners, which includes local cities, villages, and townships.

Q: Are you always out plowing during a snow storm?

A: The Operations Management Team constantly monitors the roadway conditions before and during each storm event. This allows for all snow plow trucks to be operational when they are actually needed on the roadways.

Q: How do you handle snow storms that arrive in the early morning hours?

A: Generally, we seek to "pre-treat" the roadway the day prior to the storm's actual arrival, and the snowplow trucks are called into operation when it is determined that the road conditions actually warrant additional attention. Typically, all plow trucks are out well before the morning rush-hour traffic, applying additional de-icing materials and plowing snow where needed.

Q: How do you handle storms that arrive later in the day?

A: As with most snow storms, we "pre-treat" the roadways throughout the regularly scheduled work day, and continue applying de-icing materials and plow snow as needed through the evening rush-hour. Road conditions are always monitored during the late evening and overnight hours, with plow trucks operating when needed.