



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Frederick County Public Works Prepares for Upcoming Winter Weather Forecast

FREDERICK, MD – In light of the National Weather Service forecast for a chance of snow precipitation Thursday night into Friday, Highway Operations staff of the Frederick County Division of Public Works began pretreatments and preparations today, January 6, for the upcoming winter weather event.

Highway Operations evaluates the forecast and prepares for what Mother Nature may bring. County crews are using more effective measures to prevent dangerous road conditions by applying anti-icing material (salt brine), which is a liquid salt mixture. Salt brine will only be applied in areas where the forecast is for precipitation to begin as snow and not rain. When applied to the road, the anti-icing material appears as white lines on the pavement. This method, which is applied before anticipated snowfall, has been tested and proven to be more effective than using rock salt.

Salt brine has the same melting characteristics as solid rock salt, but since it is applied in a liquid form, the salt can begin to work immediately. The brine is also more effective in lower temperatures and can be applied in advance of an approaching storm. Salt brine proves not only to be more effective on roads, but it is also more cost effective and environmentally friendly. It takes four times less salt to prevent ice accumulation than to remove ice after it has formed.

The Department of Highway Operations also reminds drivers to check basic automobile systems such as fluid levels, belts, hoses, tire tread, battery and lighting systems to ensure the bitter cold temperatures do not adversely affect their vehicles.

Highway Operations urges citizens to keep an eye on the forecast and adjust driving times to avoid being caught in a snow squall in rush hour periods. When approaching a snow plow, don't crowd or pass the trucks; the operators may or may not see you. If you must travel, stay at least three car lengths behind other vehicles.

For more information regarding snow removal and or road closures visit Division of Public Works website at frederickcountymd.gov/19/Public-Works

Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future

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