



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Department of Highway Operations

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News Release

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Frederick County Public Works Prepares for Winter

FREDERICK, Md.— In light of the [National Weather Service forecast](#) for a chance of snow over the weekend, Highway Operations staff and the Frederick County Division of Public Works have begun pretreatments as of January 3, 2024, and will continue preparations for the winter season.

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 using 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 when 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. It takes four times less salt to prevent ice accumulation than to remove ice after it has formed.

The Office of Highway Operations reminds drivers to check basic automobile systems including fluid levels, belts, hoses, tire tread, battery and lighting systems to ensure weather conditions do not adversely impact their vehicles. Residents are also urged to keep an eye on the forecast and adjust driving times to avoid being caught in a snow squall during rush hour periods.

For more information, contact the Office of Highway Operations via email, OHighOpsEmail@FrederickCountyMD.gov or call 301-600-1564.

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