

TAKE CHARGE OF SALT

Take
Charge
of



Our
Environment's
Health



Public Works and Emergency Services



Using more salt doesn't make your roads safer — it harms plants and animals, pollutes our water, damages buildings and corrodes vehicles, roads and bridges. Once you put it down, salt doesn't go away. Instead, it travels to our lakes, streams and drinking water, putting our aquatic life at risk and endangering our freshwater resources.

Snow and ice create unique emergencies. Fortunately, your municipality has the trained professionals and the equipment needed to protect our citizens. By working together to implement a well-developed plan, we can provide safe transportation, protect the environment and save money — even during Wisconsin's brutal winters.

Police, Fire and EMS: Support Public Works

Motorists look to police, firefighters and emergency services for guidance when it comes to winter weather safety and regulations. There are many ways you can become a smart winter maintenance advocate:

- Work with your public works department to develop and implement a Winter Response Plan.
- Avoid insisting on more salt or action by the public works department. Instead, report the situation and let maintenance experts determine the appropriate response.
- Discourage driving when conditions are poor (social media, press releases, etc.).
- Discourage driving too fast for conditions and inattentive driving (ticket at accidents).
- Educate the public about salt and other deicers and the time and amount needed to work effectively.
- Report slippery conditions. Be sure to remember that salt doesn't work immediately and works at different speeds at different pavement temperatures.
- Help keep people off the roadways and allow the public works professionals time and access.
- Help drivers understand the conditions and plan ahead (social media, announcements, etc.). Encourage them to embrace the winter and plan accordingly for winter weather.

Public Works: Be Leaders in Winter Safety

There are various things public safety employees can do to ensure the well-being of our citizens:

- Work with other emergency services providers in your municipality to develop and implement a Winter Response Plan.
- Develop an Incident Command System for winter weather emergencies, and determine who is incident command.
- Educate all staff. Create weather alerts based on severity, and ensure all staff members are knowledgeable in how to respond.
- Develop a system to communicate the incident severity.
- Leverage the assistance needed from other emergency responders.
- Get the word out to residents and motorists so they know what to expect.
- Educate your staff and elected officials about winter policies.
- Attend statewide pre-storm webinars.
- Hold after-storm meetings to hear what went well and discuss improvements that could be made.
- Be careful when storing products. Avoid areas where there are drains or water.
- Measure your plow drivers' application rates and discourage the blast mode of salt application.

Together, we can keep our environment and our citizens safe. Visit wisaltwise.com to learn more about Wisconsin's road salt initiatives, and be sure to do your part this winter.

Brought to you by the WI Salt Wise Partnership:

