



TDOT REGION 1 SNOW and ICE FACTS

TDOT's Goal: To ensure the safety of motorists and minimize accidents through a storm management plan that raises the level of service to our community by returning roads to bare pavement at the earliest practical time while protecting the environment.

Statewide numbers:

Salt Trucks: **819**

Salt (tons): **166,045**

Salt Brine (gallons): **1,654,136**

Salt Bins: **119**

Salt Brine spreaders: **504**

2008-2009 available budget for winter-weather needs: **\$10,226,231**

2007-2008 winter-weather cost summary: **\$9,938,687**

R.W.I.S. weather stations: **37**

Total 2006-2007 Region 1 winter-weather cost summary: **\$3,957,658**

How does TDOT respond to winter weather in East Tennessee (Region 1)?

When TDOT'S Region One Headquarters is notified of imminent bad weather, crews from the Knoxville Regional Garage, floating maintenance crews in Knoxville and Johnson City and district maintenance offices are put on alert. That includes **215 salt trucks, 86 salt-brine trucks and 208 installable snow plows.**

Salt brine truck tanks are filled and immediately begin spreading brine on our state routes and interstates. Salt brine is a salt and water mix that crews spray onto roadway surfaces before snow and ice begin to fall. Brine works well until the temperature reaches 20 degrees or below. TDOT's brine solution contains 23% salt, which is more cost effective than regular salt. The solution itself **costs about .06 cents a gallon.** TDOT Region One crews (24 counties) keep approximately **245,000 gallons** of this mixture stored and ready to distribute.

After the brine is applied, TDOT crews begin salting and plowing. Salt truck drivers have specified routes they follow. The most traveled routes in urban areas are covered first. TDOT crews are responsible for salting approximately **1,928 lane miles in Knox, Blount and Sevier Counties and 1,367 lane miles in Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties. In all of Region 1, which includes 24 counties, TDOT crews maintain about 8,026 lane-miles of roadways on state routes and interstates.**

TDOT has about **54,992 tons of salt available** for use in Region One. Approximately **10,000 tons are stored in bins located in Knox, Blount and Sevier Counties and 13,000 tons are stored in upper east Tennessee.**

Region 1 has **208 snowplows** available for use. Every TDOT regional operation has environmentally friendly truck-washes that filter the water used to wash salt distribution vehicles in a way that eliminates salt and oil runoff pollution to the environment.

TDOT also utilizes **37 Roadway Weather Information System (RWIS) stations** around the state. RWIS stations monitor a variety of weather-related factors, including air temperatures, dew-point information, wind speed/direction, precipitation type and rate and asphalt temperatures. The RWIS alerts TDOT maintenance supervisors when freezing conditions are imminent.

TDOT also relies heavily on HELP crews in urban areas to monitor road conditions. The HELP team also dispatches emergency response crews to clear wrecks as quickly as possible in an effort to reduce weather-related traffic backups.

Drivers can access real-time weather and traffic conditions on Tennessee roadways by calling 511 from any land line or cellular phone. People may also view traffic cameras and check traffic conditions on the roadways by visiting www.tennessee.gov/tdot and clicking on TDOT SmartWay.

