



TDOT REGION 2 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): **210,933**
Salt Brine (gallons): **1,653,600**
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 2007 – 2008 Region 2 winter-weather cost summary: **\$2,182,837**

Region 2 numbers:

Salt Trucks: 192
Salt (tons): 66,040
Salt Brine Trucks: 115
Salt Brine (gallons): 364,300
Salt Bins: 31

How does TDOT respond to winter weather in Chattanooga area (Region 2)?

When TDOT'S Region Two Headquarters is notified of imminent bad weather, crews from the Chattanooga Regional Garage, floating maintenance and district maintenance offices are put on alert. That includes approximately **250 people, 192 salt-spreading trucks and 115 salt-brine trucks.**

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.** The Region Two crews keep approximately **364,300 gallons** of this mixture stored and ready to distribute.

Brine is used for the purpose of keeping snow and ice in a slushy state until salting and plowing can take place. After the brine is applied, TDOT crews begin salting and plowing. Truck drivers have specified routes they follow, beginning with the **most-traveled routes, such as I-24 and I-75. Hamilton County has nearly 625 lane-miles of interstate and state routes that are maintained by 18 units (trucks).**

Region 2 has about **66,040 tons of salt available** for use. At the present time, approximately **6,000 tons** of salt are stored at the Region 2 lot and at a salt bin at the interchange of SR 111 and Back Valley Road north of Soddy Daisy, for use in the Chattanooga area. Every TDOT regional operation has a new environmentally friendly truck-wash that filters 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/tidot and clicking on TDOT SmartWay.

(For photography purposes, the closest weather station to TDOT's Region 2 complex is located on the eastbound lanes of I-24 near the Old Ringgold Road overpass on Missionary Ridge.)

