



TDOT REGION 3 SNOW and ICE FACTS

TDOT's Goal: To ensure the safety of motorists and minimize crashes 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 also protecting the environment.

Statewide numbers:

Salt Trucks: 846
Salt (tons): 175,077
Salt Brine (gallons): 1,694,657
Salt Bins: 119
Salt Brine spreaders: 499
2007-2008 available budget for winter-weather needs: \$12,642,035
2006-2007 winter-weather cost summary: \$8,100,557
R.W.I.S. weather stations: 37
Total 2007 – 2008 Region 3 winter-weather cost summary: \$2,763,282

How does TDOT respond to winter weather in Nashville area (Region 3)?

When TDOT'S Region Three Headquarters is notified of imminent bad weather, crews from the region's Six (6) district garages and the floating maintenance are put on alert. That includes approximately **350 people, 243 salt trucks and snowplows and 181 salt-brine spreaders.**

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 reduces the amount of sodium released into the environment and is more cost effective than regular salt. **The solution itself costs about .075 a gallon.** The Davidson County maintenance garage keeps approximately **90,000 gallons** of this mixture stored and ready to distribute. **For all of Region 3, TDOT has a total of 674,000 gallons of brine on hand.**

Brine helps keep snow and ice in a slushy state until salting and plowing can take place. After brine is applied, TDOT crews begin salting and plowing. Truck drivers have specified routes they follow. The most traveled routes in urban areas are covered first. **Davidson County has nearly 1,551 lane miles of interstate and state routes maintained by 35 trucks.** In all of Region 3, which includes **26 counties, TDOT crews maintain about 9,058 lane miles of roadway.**

TDOT has about **44,329 tons of salt available** for use in Region 3. Approximately **4,900 tons are stored in bins located in Davidson County.**

Region 3 has **243 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.

The Davidson County maintenance garage also maintains approximately **15,000 gallons** of calcium chloride stored and ready to use. **For all of Region 3, TDOT has a total of 117,234 gallons of calcium chloride on hand.**

TDOT's Region 3 snow and ice removal crews utilize calcium chloride to combat icy roads during very cold temperatures. Calcium chloride is combined with both the brine mixtures and road salt to enhance their ability to melt snow and ice from the roadway during very cold temperatures of 20 degrees or lower.

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.

(For photographic purposes, a RWIS station is located along Briley Parkway at the Cumberland River Overpass near the Ford Glass Plant)

