



TDOT REGION 4 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 4 winter-weather cost summary: **\$1,034,910**

How does TDOT respond to winter weather in West Tennessee (Region 4)?

When TDOT'S Region 4 Headquarters is notified of imminent bad weather, the Jackson Regional Garage, the floating maintenance crews and the maintenance crews from all impacted counties are put on alert. That includes approximately **311 people, 169 salt trucks and 122 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 per gallon.** Jackson crews keep approximately **370,300 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 **6855 miles in the Hub City Area.** In all of Region 4, which includes **21 counties, TDOT crews maintain about 8,257 lane-miles of roadways on state routes and interstates.**

At the beginning of winter season, TDOT has about **19,259 tons of salt available** for use in Region 4.

Region 4 has **167 snowplows** available for use. Every TDOT regional operation also 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 will rely heavily on our HELP crews to monitor road conditions. The HELP team will also dispatch 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.

