
Glossary

Abrasives or aggregates — Materials such as sand or chipped rock that are spread on paved roads to increase vehicle traction.

Anti-icing — The process of applying chemicals (such as salt brine, liquid calcium chloride, or calcium magnesium acetate) to the road before snow and ice bond to the surface.

Bare pavement — A road condition where pavement is visible and substantially free of snow and ice following plowing, scraping, or other means.

Bond — The adherence of snow or ice to the road surface, creating a composite that is stronger than the snow or ice itself.

Brine — A liquid composed of water and salt, often used as an agent to prewet salt before applying it to the roads.

Calcium chloride — A soluble compound produced from calcium carbonate and hydrogen chloride generally used in cold temperatures (0° - 15° F) to deice roads or to prewet salt before applying to roads.

Calcium magnesium acetate — A compound produced from limestone and acetic acid used for anti-icing and deicing that is less corrosive but more expensive than salt.

Call-out — The mobilization of operators to initiate snow and ice control activities.

Carbide blade — A blade composed of a carbon compound that generally wears longer and requires less frequent changes than other steel blades when used for snowplowing.

CG-90 — A product composed of magnesium chloride with an anticorrosive additive that is used as an alternative to road salt.

Compacted snow — Snow that has been compressed by the movement of traffic and has bonded to the road surface.

Deicing — The process of applying chemicals to the road surface to remove snow, ice, or frost after it has bonded to the pavement.

Freezgard — A product composed of approximately 25 percent magnesium chloride and 75 percent water that is used as an alternative to road salt or to prewet salt.

Gradation — The size (diameter) of sand or salt particles.

Ground-oriented sander — A sander that applies chemicals and abrasives at a constant rate independent of truck speed.

Hauling snow — The loading, removing, and disposing of snow piles after snowplowing operations.

Lane mile — A measure of road length that reflects the number of miles in each driving lane (*e.g.*, one mile of highway with four driving lanes equals four lane miles).

Level of service — A standard of performance defined by a local government detailing the types and amounts of winter maintenance needed to achieve desirable road conditions.

Magnesium chloride — A soluble compound produced from magnesium carbonate and hydro-

gen chloride used to deice roads or prewet salt before applying it to roads.

Plowing snow — Using mechanical means to push or clear snow away from the road surface.

Polyurethane blades — A plow blade composed of hard plastic that provides more flexible blade action over road obstructions than steel blades.

Prewetting — The process of applying liquids to salt (before spreading salt on paved roads) to accelerate the ice melting process and prevent salt from bouncing off of the road surface.

Primary and secondary roads — Primary roads are those designated by an agency to have higher priority for plowing and sanding; secondary roads are those designated to have lower priority.

Recycle — The process of recovering and reusing materials. *Salt brine recycling* generally refers to collecting brine runoff and reusing it as a prewetting agent for salt. *Sand recycling* generally refers to collecting road sand used one winter and processing it for reuse the next winter or for other applications.

Response — Any activity to plow, sand, or otherwise remove snow and ice or reduce hazardous conditions due to snow and ice.

Screening — The process of mechanically sifting used road sand through a mesh to separate out particles and debris so that the sand can be reused.

Snow and ice control — All activities, including administration, management, planning, and operations, associated with responding to winter road conditions.

Snow emergency — A declaration by a local government, based on weather and road condi-

tions, that plowing operations will begin and parking restrictions (if any) will be enforced.

Snow and/or ice event — Any weather condition which necessitates snow and ice control operations, such as plowing or sanding.

Snow plan — A document that details specific agency procedures for planning snow and ice control, including equipment, materials, routes, scheduling, use of operators, training, safety, communication, emergency plowing, and clean-up activities.

Snow policy — A document that clearly states the principles guiding the scope of an agency's snow and ice control, the level of service, and what services the public can reasonably expect. It describes agency priorities (roads, routes, and activities) and commencement of operations.

Wing — A second plow attached to the side of a truck that extends the total plowing surface area beyond the reach of a front-mounted plow.

Zero-velocity spreader — A spreader that uses air flow to dispense chemicals (liquid and/or dry deicers) in a continuous controlled pattern with material blown onto the road in one direction at approximately the same speed the truck moves in the other direction. The deicing materials strike the pavement at zero velocity and stay where they fall.