

Helpful Winter Weather Information

With a Winter Weather Advisory for snow, sleet and freezing rain in effect from midnight tonight until noon tomorrow, I wanted to provide you with VDOT's Snow Fact Sheet and a few useful links to keep you better informed and connected throughout winter!

HOW WE PREPARE

We monitor the forecast closely with National Weather Service and Itris, and a **mobilization plan** is decided.

Up to 48 hours prior, crews treat critical locations when pavement temps are above 20 degrees and weather will not begin as rain. This anti-icing is most effective during the first hour of the storm.

On interstates, about 450 lane miles of bridges, ramps and roads prone to freezing are treated with liquid magnesium chloride. On major roads such as Routes 1, 7, 28, and 50, crews treat about 1,700 lane miles with brine.

Brine (77% water, 23% salt) helps prevent ice from bonding to the road surface, reduces salt needed to melt ice, is kinder to the environment, and can lower snow removal time and costs.

Mobilizing Equipment

About 12-18 hours prior to a small event and 18-24 hours for large events, **trucks report, load, and deploy** around northern Virginia. When two or more inches are forecast, trucks are staged in subdivisions.

HOW WE CLEAR ROADS

In northern Virginia, crews work **Interstates, major roads, and main subdivision roads concurrently**. Crews begin plowing when two inches have fallen.

Interstates and high-volume roads are made passable, then bare pavement where possible. Subdivision main roads are made passable, then remaining streets and cul-de-sacs.

Neighborhoods

Northern Virginia roads are divided among 613 "snow maps" assigned to plow drivers. Drivers complete a minimum of one pass on each road. This year, 180 VDOT employees **will ride the roads to monitor progress** and more than 30 will monitor remotely.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A STORM

Clearance Goals

For one passable lane on all subdivisions:
2-4" of snow: 24 hours after storm ends
4-6" of snow: 48 hours after storm ends
6" or more: More than 48 hours after storm ends

What Does "Passable" Mean?

In neighborhoods, an 8- to 10-foot path for emergency vehicle access. It is **drivable with extreme caution, but is snow-packed and not curb-to-curb or to bare pavement**. Crews will sand hills, curves and intersections to help with traction.

Sidewalks and Trails

While VDOT cannot address with road-clearing priorities, crews are asked to be mindful, especially near schools. There is often limited room to pile snow, especially in significant storms, to make roads passable. Residents and businesses are asked to clear near their properties. Check with your locality for ordinances.

Driveways

The plows will push some snow back, so view our video for tips on shoveling before they arrive.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

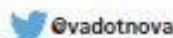
- » Park in driveways or on the **odd-numbered side of the street** to allow plows room to pass
- » Monitor forecasts carefully
- » Adjust commutes, telework, and avoid driving if possible
- » Ensure enough gas, wiper fluid, proper tires, food, water and medicine when driving
- » Give plows room to work
- » Be patient

STAY CONNECTED

- » Report issues to **800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623)** or my.vdot.virginia.gov
- » **NEW!** virginiadot.org/novaemergency for releases, important messages, FAQs and other resources
- » **511virginia.gov** for road conditions
- » vdotplows.org for neighborhood status and locations of plows



FOLLOW US





2016-2017 NORTHERN VIRGINIA SNOW FACTS

Arlington*, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties
*Arlington maintains own secondary roads.



4,564 VDOT AND CONTRACT VEHICLES

95% OF FLEET IS CONTRACTED



**MATERIALS
ON HAND**



125,155 TONS SALT
44,705 GALLONS BRINE
20,338 TONS SAND

18 AREA
HEADQUARTERS

24 SALT
DOMES

THE DOME AT I-495 AND VAN DORN, OUR LARGEST, HOLDS 33,000 TONS OF SALT



CLEARANCE GOALS AFTER STORM ENDS

HOW LONG FOR A PASSABLE
LANE ON ALL ROADS?

2-4" of snow: 24 HOURS
4-6" of snow: 48 HOURS
6" + of snow: 48+ HOURS

SNOW BUDGET: \$82.7 MILLION

Useful links to important local, state and federal resources:

- Call 911 for a true emergency
- Loudoun County Sheriff non-emergency number: 703-777-1021
- [Virginia Department of Transportation](#)
- [Report Issues to VDOT](#) or call 1-800-367-7623
- [Plow Schedule](#)

- [Winter Weather Information](#)
- [Alert Loudoun](#)
- [Virginia Department of Emergency Management](#)
- [National Weather Service](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Dominion Power](#) or call 1-866-366-4357
- [Novec](#) or call 703-335-0500
- [Loudoun Water](#) or call 571-291-7878

All my best,



Tony Buffington

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