



Highway Maintenance Manual

Bureau of Highway Maintenance

Chapter 06 Winter Maintenance

July 2025

Section 10 Storm Management Responsibilities

Subject 30 Operators, General

1.0 General

The operators of snow removal equipment should be provided with training in all aspects of winter operations. They need to be familiar with the service objectives as described in the Highway Maintenance Manual (HMM). These include the operation of equipment, proper use of de-icing agents, varying weather conditions and driving in traffic under adverse conditions.

2.0 Training

Winter employee meetings should be held every fall by the service provider to instruct operators on proper snow removal, ice control and brine use strategies and techniques. These meetings can be useful in familiarizing operators with their assigned winter maintenance sections, or assigned areas, and reviewing the highway maintenance manual guidelines related to winter operations.

Operators should have completed adequate behind the wheel training during actual winter operations prior to assuming responsibility for a winter maintenance section or assigned area. This training should be accomplished under the direction of an experienced operator in a variety of winter storm situations.

In addition, most every fall many operators are given the opportunity to test their skills in a snowfighter's rodeo. The rodeo typically consists of two segments: an obstacle course and an inspection station. The goal of this rodeo is to improve operator skills in the use of winter operations equipment. This day also provides time for classroom training, video presentations and demonstration stations.

3.0 Winter Storm Plan

Instruction before, during and after a storm are essential in providing winter maintenance. An initial winter storm plan provides direction on what de-icing agent types are to be used, what their rate of application should be, what equipment is to be used and what stage the operation is in. The operator should receive additional instruction from the supervisor as the storm progresses and conditions change. In many cases, post-storm review is useful.

4.0 Commercial Driver's License

A commercial driver's license (CDL) is required to operate any vehicle with a gross weight over 26,000 pounds. To obtain this license an operator must pass both knowledge and skill tests. Special endorsements are also required to operate tank vehicles, double trailers or to transport hazardous materials. Operators are required to comply with all CDL regulations that apply to county highway departments.

5.0 Drug and Alcohol Testing

Each county shall have a drug and alcohol policy in place that complies with state and federal regulations.