



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 21, 2022

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Knox County's Highway Department Ready for Winter Weather

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Engineering & Public Works started brining roads this morning in preparation for tomorrow's snowy forecast. Crews will be in around 9 p.m. Thursday evening to prep the fleet of heavy equipment ahead of snow accumulation. The forecast calls for less than a quarter inch of rain before the snow fall, so the brine on the road won't wash away.

The Highway Department can equip up to 14 trucks with brine spreaders or equipment to spread granular road salt. Knox County has 17 snowplows that can be attached to dump trucks as needed. The county also has 12 four-wheel-drive trucks that can be equipped with smaller snowplows for use on more narrow roads.

The County also has about 4,000 tons of road salt, 5,000 gallons of calcium chloride, and 30,000 gallons of salt brine ready for use. Road salt helps to melt ice and snow. Calcium chloride is used to maintain the effectiveness of granular salt in extremely cold conditions. Salt brine is a mixture of salt and water that is applied to roadways to stop snow from sticking to pavement. The brine system allows Knox County's Highway Department to pre-treat 1,718 lane miles of primary and secondary roads, and other known trouble spots, ahead of a winter storm.

During winter storms, residents should stay off the roads whenever possible until crews have cleared the snow. Workers will start clearing main thoroughfares and known problem areas first before moving on to complaints and secondary roads. Snow removal route plan can be found [here](#).

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