



# WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

## Preparations:

- Inspection of agency equipment is complete, and inspections of contractor equipment are ongoing – should be finalized by mid-November
- Final salt deliveries are ongoing and will be complete in November
- Seven new or rebuilt salt domes will be complete by November 10th
- Winter weather plans have been reviewed and updated where necessary
- Continued expansion of use of multi-plow vehicles has improved efficiency



# WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

## Changes in Strategy..... Break the Bond

### Anti-Icing:

- The application of a liquid brine mixture to the dry roadway before the onset of winter precipitation.
- MDOT will apply anti-icing (when possible) to interstate and primary roadways throughout the region. We're typically able to treat most of the interstate system, as well as an increasing number of primary roadways.
- We mainly use contract support for these activities, but we plan to increase the number of resources we own to conduct more of these activities in-house.



# WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

## Pre-wetting of Dry Chemicals:

- Treating dry de-icing materials with liquid before applying them to the roadway.
- Pre-wetting typically occurs while winter precipitation is falling.
- Enables chemicals to act more quickly on road surface compared to the application of dry material
- Allows plowing activities to be more effective in total road clearing



# WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

## Less Salt.....

- Our goal is to reduce the amount of salt entering our watershed areas through a reduction of applied chemicals to our roadways
- This is accomplished by reducing the pounds of product per lane mile per inch of snowfall
- We've achieved a significant reduction in chemical use, which has meant a corresponding reduction in expenditures
- Very little change in time to clear roadways



# WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

## Media Interaction:

- When possible, 3-4 days prior to precipitation, pre-event media releases regarding how to prepare vehicles, personal actions to take, where to go for real-time roadway information
- Expanded the number of personnel involved with real-time social media
- Before and during winter event, continuous real-time messaging, with imbedded videos from workers on actions taken to prepare roadways, screen shots from cameras of events, traffic backups, etc.
- Active response to social media clarifying or supporting messaging by those experiencing issues



# WINTER WEATHER OPERATIONS

## The “SNOW SHOW”

- We are prepared for whatever winter precipitation comes our way
- Our first response to winter precipitation for the season occurred in western Maryland’s Garrett County during the evening of Sunday, October 29th into the early morning of Monday, October 30th.