

Technology

- A statewide network of 41 weather sensors in roadways and bridges allow VDOT maintenance crews to quickly identify when and where road surfaces might be freezing.
- VDOT's Smart Traffic Centers and the Transportation Emergency Operation Center (TEOC) monitor traffic conditions and keep motorists informed of incidents, detours and other road-related information.
- During a storm, VDOT's color-coded maps are updated every 15 minutes to show which roads are snow-covered, icy or wet. Citizens can also get this information by calling 511 or by visiting www.511Virginia.org.
- VDOT also uses anti-icing techniques by applying liquid calcium chloride or liquid magnesium chloride on highway pavements *before* the storm begins to prevent ice or snow from bonding to the pavement once frozen precipitation begins to fall.

VDOT Statewide Snow Resources

- VDOT has \$82.6 million budgeted for snow removal this winter. Past expenditures for snow removal include:
 - 2005-2006 \$55 million
 - 2004-2005 \$79 million
 - 2003-2004 \$84 million
 - 2002-2003 \$144 million
 - 2001-2002 \$46 million
 - 2000-2001 \$68 million
- VDOT has approximately 3,500 pieces of snow-removal equipment and 3,900 crewmembers for snow-removal operations.
- Private contractors with 2,777 hired equipment trucks are also on call when extra help is needed to supplement VDOT equipment and manpower.

VDOT has ample supplies of snow removal materials in stock, including 302,000 tons of salt and 171,000 tons of sand. Supplies are replenished as they are used.

Winter Driving Tips

VDOT offers the following tips for driving in snowy conditions:

- Before you begin your trip, know the current road conditions and weather forecasts. Call 511 or visit www.511Virginia.org.
- Make sure your windows, mirrors and lights are clear of ice and snow.
- Always wear your seat belt.
- Allow extra time to travel to your destination.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as bridges, overpasses and shady spots. Also, if there is heavy snow, ice or high winds, be alert to potential driving hazards including downed branches, trees and electric lines.

- Reduce speed as appropriate and keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles and snowplows.
- Do not pass a snowplow unless it is absolutely necessary. Remember, the plow is clearing a path for you.
- Do not park along the street if possible. Snowplow drivers can't fully clear the road if cars are in the way.
- Keep an emergency winter driving kit in your car. The kit should include a small bag of rock salt, sand or cat litter to provide traction in case you get stuck, a snowbrush and ice scraper, a flashlight, battery booster cables, a blanket and extra clothing.
- Practice common sense. Remember that your car cannot start, stop, or turn as quickly and surely on snow or ice as it does on dry pavement, so think and drive accordingly.

Shoveling Tips

- To avoid extra work, it is best not to shovel your driveway until after a snow plow passes.
- When you do shovel, always shovel snow to the right of your driveway when you are facing the street. That way the plow will not push the snow you shoveled back across the end of your driveway as it passes.