

Employees recognized for work during winter storms

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING RESPONSE TO THE WINTER STORMS OF JANUARY 2022.

WHEREAS, the employees of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) have a long tradition of meeting the challenges brought on by winter storms, hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the first winter storm of the season approached South Carolina during the week of January 9, 2022, SCDOT prepared for a worst-case scenario of snow and ice impacting the state by pre-treating interstate and major primary highways.

Approximately 2,500 SCDOT workers, supported by County, District and Headquarters staff, began working around the clock as the storm approached and continued until the last roads were cleared; and

WHEREAS, SCDOT Leadership deployed wrecker service contractors along critical locations on the interstates to assist stranded motorists and remove disabled vehicles to maintain traffic flow. Additional SCDOT SHEP Operators were deployed to counties forecast to have significant snowfall or ice, with up to 44 operators working 12-hour shifts; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the "ONE DOT" approach that erases boundaries within the agency, SCDOT assistance crews identified in counties not expecting high-impacts of winter weather were prepared to deploy outside of their Districts to assist with road clearing operations in affected areas; and

WHEREAS, as forecasters called for a second winter storm to hit the state in less than a week, SCDOT workers prepared in every county of South Carolina to meet any challenges from this new storm with 12-hour shifts of pre-emptive ice treatments, snow plowing, and spreading salt and other materials to achieve safer, improved road conditions; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022, SCDOT once again began pre-treating interstates and major highways for a third consecutive week, this time focused in the Pee Dee and Coastal regions; and

WHEREAS, during the three consecutive weeks when SCDOT employees were called to action, a total of 3,512 tons of sand, 34,285 tons of salt, 154,393 gallons of calcium chloride and 3.7 million gallons of brine were used to treat highways and improve safety for the motoring public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission, duly assembled on March 17, 2022, hereby commends and expresses gratitude to the men and women of SCDOT led by Secretary **Christy Hall** and her Leadership Team for their continued valuable contributions to achieve the mission of the Department and meet the motoring public needs for the state of South Carolina.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB THOMPSON/THE CONNECTOR
An SCDOT crew from Florence Maintenance pretreats I-95 near Florence on Jan. 14, 2022.



On Jan. 21, Charleston Maintenance pretreats I-26 ramps in Charleston. The back-to-back storms had crews working 24-hour shifts for almost three weeks.



Brine making was being done around the clock to keep the roads treated. Here, Florence Maintenance makes the solution on Jan. 14, 2022.



Brine was made at maintenance sheds across the state. Here, Lexington Maintenance mixes up a batch on Jan. 13, 2022. In all, 3.7 million gallons of brine was used during this winter's storms.



Horry Maintenance crews put a calcium chloride tank on the back of a dump truck to keep up with pretreating in the area on Jan. 20, 2022.