

SCDOT Winter Weather Information

1. As winter storms approach, SCDOT takes a cautious approach. Small, regional storms are addressed by local maintenance units only. Larger, more widespread or severe storms prompt a statewide response. Our typical response is to pre-treat Interstates and bridges in affected areas with salt brine.
2. Depending on the forecast, resources may be relocated as necessary in order to be prepared when the storm hits. Crews split and go to 12-hour shifts. During the storm, we make resource adjustments as warranted.
3. Winter weather procedures kick in typically when the forecast has a reasonable chance of frozen precipitation with 72 hours. Trucks are typically loaded 24 hours before the event is predicted to start.
4. Pre-treating begins up to several days in advance if forecast models agree, and will continue until the event starts.
5. SCDOT holds a pre-winter snow and ice meeting each year with local municipalities, but does not typically interact with the school districts once an event starts, other than to answer any questions they may have. We do interact with Highway Patrol throughout the event, and with emergency services as necessary.
6. SCDOT currently has 553 snowplows and 448 material spreaders attached to trucks, which are used as necessary to combat winter storm events. Snow fighting materials include 55,000 tons of salt, 263,000 gallons of calcium chloride and 278,500 gallons of brine. There are 22 brine makers in continuous use to make brine from bulk salt during storm events.
7. The agency has a computer-driven snow and ice reporting system, used by local maintenance personnel to communicate storm-related information to District offices and to the Director of Maintenance staff. This system records the number of people working, number and type of equipment working, number and type of equipment that has broken down, amount of materials used, amount of materials remaining in inventory, weather conditions and any other pertinent information.
8. Information collected by the snow and ice reporting system is used to compile reports for senior management and media.
9. A winter storm report is periodically provided to senior management, the Governor's staff, Commissioners and news media throughout the storm event. This report summarizes information about the storm event and conditions at the time the report is generated.
10. A cabinet report is prepared as a final summary, containing summaries of materials and man-hours used during an event. Storm costs are usually included in this report as well.