



City of Superior, Wisconsin

BACKGROUND

The City of Superior maintains over 300 lane miles, 52 of which are highway miles. Since initiating smarter salting practices in 2014, they have developed educational resources for operators and residents, transitioned to the use of sand on residential streets, and purchased equipment that enables the precision application of de-icing materials.

OVERVIEW

Salt Savings:

Average before: 5000 tons/winter
Average after: 1500 tons/winter
Total Reduction: 70%

Budget Numbers:

Material Cost Savings: \$220,000/year
Labor: overtime increased with more mechanical removal (approx. 20%)

CHLORIDE REDUCTION STRATEGIES

New Methods:

- An annual Snow Rodeo refreshes operators on the do's and don'ts of plowing, salt application, and salt's impact on infrastructure and local ecosystems.
- Public education and outreach on the impacts of salt and the need for residents to drive slowly and cautiously on roads in the winter.
- Residential roads receive winter sand, not salt, and are only sanded at intersections.

New Equipment:

- Salt spreaders outfitted with ground speed control that give operators more control over application rates by adjusting output based on traveling speed.
- Three new plow trucks with sander bodies, equipped with wings and a front blade.

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Our operators take pride in their work and it shows!

Megan Hogfeldt, City of Superior Water Resources Specialist

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