



News from the Ohio Turnpike

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For Immediate Release:

Ohio Turnpike Snow & Ice crews wrap up 2014-15 winter season

BEREA (March 20, 2015) – From last November until recently, Ohio Turnpike personnel performed snow and ice control on 241 miles of mainline, 31 interchanges and 14 service plazas. Through March 16, 2015, crews battled over 30 storm events across eight maintenance sections and used 74,000 tons of salt to keep the road clean and safe.

"The average yearly use is about 67,000 tons, which means we are a little higher than normal but thankfully not where we were last year (100,000 tons) " stated Chris Matta, Ohio Turnpike Maintenance Engineer.

"In addition to the rock salt, we have used more than 200,000 gallons of liquid chlorides to pre-wet the rock salt and to pre-treat bridge decks," said Matta. "Pre-wetting is a strategy of applying a liquid deicing solution to salt during its application to the pavement to reduce bounce and scatter. The pre-treatment deicing on quick-freezing bridge decks helps prevent accidents."

The total cost of labor and materials is higher than historical averages with material usage making up about 65 percent of the cost, mainly due to higher than normal salt costs. Turnpike crews have patrolled, plowed and spread material as they fought over 30 different storms events across our eight maintenance sections to prepare for—and respond to—snow and ice events.

"It's extreme but we've had snowfall in Ohio as late as May 10, so we know the season may not be completely over yet. If we do get another blast of winter, customers can rest assured our crews will be out there to keep them moving safely to their destinations," added Matta.

The top priority, especially during extremely heavy snowfall is clearing the right and center lanes on the Turnpike mainline.

Then the crews focus attention on third lanes, interchanges, service plazas and shoulders. Turnpike crews use multiple techniques and advanced equipment to battle winter snowstorms, including towplows.



Ohio Turnpike crews spent about 2,400 hours plowing snow this past winter to keep the road safe for motorists.

Motorists should slow down, avoid distractions and drive according to the conditions of the road. They should be especially cautious on ramps, bridges and overpasses.

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The Ohio Turnpike is a 241-mile toll road offering one of the safest, best and most convenient routes for motorists to reach east/west destinations along the northern corridor of Ohio. The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission provides excellent customer service and amenities to meet travelers' wants and needs, including state-of-the-art service plazas, a variety of restaurant choices, and routine maintenance for a smooth, pleasant trip. For a better travel experience, choose the Ohio Turnpike.