

Augusta Public Works Standard Operating Policy

SECTION	Operations	NUMBER	0402
SUBJECT	Salt Management Plan		
DEPARTMENT	Public Works		
AUTHORITY	Public Works Manager		

Policy

The Township of Augusta is committed to providing efficient and effective winter maintenance operations while ensuring public safety, continuous improvement and adherence to all applicable Provincial legislation and accepted standards. The Township will optimize the use of winter maintenance materials containing chlorides on all Township roads while aiming to minimize adverse impacts on the environment. Staff will strive to provide safe winter road conditions for vehicle traffic as set out in the winter maintenance policy and within the resources established by the Township. These commitments will be met by:

- adhering to the procedures contained within the Salt Management Plan
- reviewing and upgrading the Salt Management Plan on an annual basis to incorporate new technologies and new developments
- committing to ongoing winter maintenance staff training and education
- monitoring on an annual basis, the present conditions of the winter maintenance program, as well as the effectiveness of the Salt Management Plan

Directive

Purpose:

This Salt Management Plan (SMP) sets out a policy and the procedural framework for ensuring that the Township continuously improves on the effective delivery of winter maintenance services and the management of road salt used in winter maintenance operations, as outlined in Environment Canada’s Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts.

The SMP is meant to be dynamic to allow the Township to evaluate and phase-in any changes, new approaches and technologies in winter maintenance activities in a fiscally sound manner. At the same time, any modifications to Township winter maintenance activities must ensure that roadway safety is not compromised.

As specified in the Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts, the SMP is endorsed by the Township of Augusta Council.

Procedure:

The Township meets minimum maintenance standards (MMS) specified in the *Ontario Regulation 239/02, Municipal Act 2001*, for snow accumulation and icy roads. The procedures outlined within this policy help to ensure that this level of service is met.

Winter Patrol

The Township carries out winter patrolling from October 15 to April 15 by utilizing the Roads Patrolperson to keep track of weather and calling in of equipment operators to do the necessary plowing, sanding, and salting of roads. One of the requirements of the MMS as specified in *Ontario Regulation 239/02, Municipal Act, 2001* for snow accumulation and icy roads, is to meet or exceed the guidelines as often as possible.

Salt Usage

Material	2024	2023	2022	2020	2021
Solids	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes
Rock Salt (NaCl)	789.57	998.59	929.46	1086.71	847.22

Sanding & Salting

The Township uses a 50% sand and 50% salt mixture on paved roads and a 95% sand and 5% salt mixture on unpaved roads.

All trucks are equipped with Dickie John or Trackmatics electronic controls for winter mix applications. The controllers are pre-set on various application rates and selected based on weather conditions and temperatures.

The Patrolperson is responsible for making sure that there is no spilling or waste with respect to salt usage.

Communication

All Township equipment in the Public Works Department is equipped with 2-way radios. Each driver is responsible for calling and notifying their patrolperson of any changing weather conditions.

Record Keeping

The Patrolperson is responsible for keeping accurate records of weather conditions, road, and air temperatures as well as the rate at which the material is being applied on daily patrol sheets. The patrol sheet is then given to the Public Works Manager the next morning so that the salt/sand mix quantities can be added and filed for future reference. The patrol sheet is completed daily from October 15 until April 15. A copy of the patrol sheet can be found in the Townships Winter Maintenance Policy.



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Looking to the Future

The Township is always looking to the future and will continue to lower salt use while ensuring Township roads are safe for the travelling public. This will be done in accordance with the MMS as well as by mandating that all employees in the Public Works Department work to minimize their impact on the environment. Council and staff will evaluate winter salt usage and overall winter maintenance each year and update the policies, as necessary.

Associated Documents:

Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts - <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/pollutants/road-salts/code-practice-environmental-management.html>

Consequences of Non-Compliance:

Any workers failing to abide by written standards of this program will be subject to discipline including and up to termination of employment.

Review Cycle:

The employer will review the policy and program annually or when changes in legislation occur and adjust where necessary to ensure it remains effective.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all Augusta Public Works staff to adhere to this policy.

Public Works Manager, Augusta Township

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