



January 2, 2018

Severe Cold Limits Effectiveness of Salt on Streets

DELAWARE – Here is an update on neighborhood streets following the weekend snowfall:

Once the priority 1 and 2 routes were cleared and salted, the priority 3 (neighborhood streets) were addressed by both plowing and salting by Public Works crews.

Unfortunately the combination of cloudy weather and severe cold over the weekend is inhibiting the effectiveness of the salt we are putting down on the neighborhood streets, making it hard for the ice to clear. At 30 degrees F, a pound of road salt can melt up to 46 pounds of ice. This number drops to just 6 pounds of ice at 15 degrees F, and even less at the near zero temperatures we have been experiencing overnight. In short, it is just too cold for road salt to be very effective. We are adding additional salt in a few particularly troublesome locations though again, low temperatures will inhibit fast results. As temperatures increase, the residual salt on the streets will be more effective.

As a note for pet owners, please be aware and pass the word along that standing water along areas that have been treated with salt on days when the temperature is far below freezing, is actually also at a temperature below 32 degrees F, and as such could cause frost bite to animals allowed to walk through it. Salt can depress the freezing point of water to temperatures as low as minus 6 degrees. So on a 10 degree day, a standing puddle of water is likely to be as cold.

Please feel free to submit requests and questions through cmo@delawareohio.net or pwcs@delawareohio.net.

Mid-range forecast is for temperatures to rise above freezing toward the end of the weekend.