

Physical Infrastructure



Resilience Worth Its Salt: Safeguarding Saskatchewan's Winter Mobility



Winter in Saskatchewan brings fast-changing conditions that can make roads challenging and, at times, dangerous. The Ministry of Highways uses a careful and modern approach to winter road safety through its Salt Management Plan, which focuses on efficiency, resilience and strong environmental responsibility. The plan follows the national code of practice, but it is tailored to the province's harsh winter weather and the environmental variability that comes with it.

A major part of this work happens long before a storm arrives. Salt is stored under permanent roofs on impermeable pads to protect groundwater, and storage facilities are upgraded regularly to maintain high safety and environmental standards. Once winter weather moves in, the ministry applies more than 100,000 tonnes of salt each year using prewetting systems, treated abrasives and snowplows equipped with groundspeed controllers. Nearly all equipment tracks how much salt is used and where it is applied, helping crews make informed, efficient decisions. Weather monitoring tools support this work by guiding real-time responses that match road conditions whether they be freezing rain, blowing snow or sudden temperature swings.

Why It Matters

The Salt Management Plan helps keep Saskatchewan's winter roads safe and dependable, even when conditions change quickly. By combining modern equipment with data-driven decisions and protective storage practices, the Ministry of Highways reduces the environmental impact of salt use, safeguards water resources and maintains reliable transportation routes across the province. This approach supports community safety, strengthens winter travel stability and upholds strong stewardship of Saskatchewan's transportation system.

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