



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rob Link Abbey Harris January 28, 2019  
215-4750 office 215-4579 office  
320-2108 cell 705-1681 cell

## **Knox County's Highway Department Ready for Winter Weather**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.* – Knox County Engineering & Public Works has prepared its fleet of heavy equipment ahead of possible winter weather this week. On-call crews are ready in each service district to begin treating roadways as needed. Despite some light rain expected to come in Monday night, crews can use granular road salt or liquid brine to treat roads.

Knox County has approximately 4,000 tons of road salt, 5,000 gallons of calcium chloride and 30,000 gallons of salt brine in storage and ready to use. Road salt helps to melt ice and snow. Calcium chloride is used to maintain the effectiveness of granular salt in extremely cold conditions. Salt brine is a mixture of salt and water that is applied to roadways to stop snow from sticking to pavement. The brine system allows Knox County's Highway Department to pre-treat 1,392 lane miles of primary and secondary roads, and other known trouble spots, ahead of a winter storm.

Prior to and during any winter precipitation, the on-call supervisors monitor road conditions in the county and communicate with authorities to determine necessary precautions.

The Highway Department can equip up to 14 trucks with brine spreaders, which can be switched out with equipment to spread granular road salt. Knox County has 17 snow plows that can be attached to dump trucks as needed. Depending on the severity of the weather, the county also has 12 four-wheel-drive trucks that can be equipped with smaller snow plows for use on more narrow roads.

During winter storms, residents should stay off the roads whenever possible until crews have cleared the snow. Workers will start clearing main thoroughfares and known problem areas first before moving on to complaints and secondary roads.

*Mayor Jacobs and Senior Director of Engineering and Public Works Jim Snowden will be available for interviews at the Engineering Building (205 W. Baxter Ave.) at 2:30 p.m. today, Monday, Jan. 28.*

###