### The State of Chlorides in New Hampshire



#### **Connecticut Extension Webinar** March 20, 2018 Ted Diers, NHDES

### Separated at birth?





### Salt use in the US



## Why do you care about salt?

- 1. Infrastructure impacts.
- 2. Environmental impacts.
- 3. Winter maintenance costs.
- 4. Regulatory pressure.
- 5. My boss makes me care.



### Why salt matters ...



#### Dead trees



Infrastructure damage



Wells



#### Toxic for fish



## Limits to development



(b) Osmoregulation in a saltwater environment

	Cl- (mg/L)		
Human health	250		
Wildlife	600		
Aquatic organisms	860 – 1-hour mean 230 – 4-day mean		
Terrestrial and emergent plants	300		
Aquatic plants	200 - 36,400		



- -- Chloride is the problem.
- -- Mussels, zooplankton and macroinvertebrates very sensitive

### Other issues

- Density of runoff water
   Effect on phosphorus
- Combination effects

   Chloride PLUS
  - acidic PLUS
  - low-hardness PLUS
  - low DO





Tap Water

Salt Water

https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual\_reports/ 2014/documents/r-wd-16-06.pdf



### Yes, the problem is salt



### Chloride Impaired Waters





44 impaired waterbodies state-wide



#### Where Does the Salt Come From?



### What sector do you represent?

- 1. Municipality
- 2. State agency
- 3. Environmental organization/concern
- 4. Homeowner
- 5. Just bored on Tuesdays at 2 pm.



### Other Salt sources?

- Septic systems and water softeners
- Dirt road dust suppression ~ 1 ton/In mile
- Salt storage



### Land Use and Salt Imports



Developed and transportation 15% = impaired waters





#### The issue is over-application!

### Solution



### Salt Applicator Certification Program







environmental quality



### Overcoming the Challenges

- Training
- Liability
- Costs
- Culture





# What do you think is the biggest challenge to reducing salt use?

- 1. Training
- 2. Liability
- 3. Costs
- 4. Culture

#### Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd. Voltaire

5. I'm not convinced we need to use less salt.

### How Salt Works

- Salt molecules pull water molecules out of ice formations – to form a salt brine with a reduced freezing temperature.
- Once the brine is formed the melting process is greatly accelerated



Source: Wisconsin DOT Transportation Bulletin #22

 The effectiveness of salt changes with temperature!

### Calibration



- Measure & Mark Test Grid
- Drive over the test grid at a typical application speed
- Sweep up material and weigh to determine application rate
  - Settings to keep track of:
    - Gate Height
    - Auger/Belt Speed
    - Pony Motor RPMs

### Parking Lot Application Rates

	Weather Condition	Maintenance Actions	Application Rate (lbs/per 1000 sq.ft.)			
Pavement Temp. (°F) and Trend (↑↓)			Salt Prewetted/Pretre ated with salt brine	Salt Prewetted/Pretre ated with other blends	Dry salt	Winter sand
> <b>30</b> ↑	Snow	Plow, treat intersections only	4.5	4	4.5	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	5.75	5.25	6.5	Not recommended
30 ↓	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	5.75	5.25	6.5	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	6.5	5.75	7	Not recommended
<b>25 - 30</b> ↑	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	5.75	5.25	6.5	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	6.5	5.75	7	Not recommended
25 - 30 ↓	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	5.75	5.25	6.5	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	7	6.5	8.25	10.5

### Application Rates – (Continued)

Bayomont	Weather Condition	Maintenance Actions	Application Rate (lbs/per 1000 sq.ft.)			
Temp. (°F) and Trend (↑↓)			Salt Prewetted/Pretre ated with salt brine	Salt Prewetted/Pretre ated with other blends	Dry salt	Winter sand
<b>20 - 25</b> ↑	Snow or frz. Rain	Plow and Apply chemical	7	6.5	8.25	10.5 for frz. Rain
20 - 25 ↓	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	5.75	7.5	9.5	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	7	7.5	10	10.5
15 - 20 ↑	Snow	Plow and apply chemical	7.5	7.5	9.5	Not recommended
	Frz. Rain	Apply chemical	8.75	7.5	10	10.5
15 - 20 ↓	Snow or Frz. Rain	Plow and apply chemical	8.25	7.5	10	10.5 for frz. Rain
0 to 15 <b>↑</b> ↓	Snow	Plow, treat with blends, sand hazardous areas	Not recommended	10	Not recommended	13 and spot- treat as needed
< 0	Snow	Plow, treat with blends, sand hazardous areas	Not recommended	23	Not recommended	13 and spot- treat as needed





### **During The Storm Activities - Review**

- Plowing is the #1 winter maintenance activity! Mechanical removal of snow and ice is preferred
- Salt does not begin melting until a brine is formed
- Pre-wet salt is more efficient and effective than dry salt
- Salt be used to loosen the ice/pavement bond NOT to 'burn off' the ice
- Salt application rates vary with PAVEMENT temperature
- Know how to use the application rate chart!
- Cover deicing materials, store on an impervious surface, and control Drainage

### Online Salt Accounting System – LOG BOOK



Home About Help Sign In

New Hampshire Salt Management System



Documentation is essential !!!

### Brine

- Advanced class
- Big reductions











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15 Offices



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### Liability

- Certification
- Liability protection
- Like ski-areas







- 11 companies slip and fall claims
- 2 cases dropped when certification was cited

#### No renewal = no liability protection



### Municipal Issues

- Equipment \$ ground speed control (GPS, Viaesys), underbelly plows, MetalPles plows, brine
- Training GreenSnoPro, local training
- Certification liability
- Incentives esprit de corps
- Permits and MS4 local mandates
- **Design** pervious pavers, heated sidewalks, sun/shade, garages, awnings

#### Does it work and does it impact cost?

## Big issue, small bites

- Focus on worst watersheds, early adopters and advocates
- Is liability a real issue?
- Are Green SnoPros using less?
- Administrative burden -- Fees
- Public safety
- Equipment costs
- Alternative materials
- Renewing certifications

#### Too much is the problem!







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