



2016-2017 NORTHERN VIRGINIA SNOW FACTS

Arlington*, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties.
*Arlington maintains own secondary roads.



4,564 VDOT AND CONTRACT VEHICLES

95% OF FLEET IS CONTRACTED



MATERIALS ON HAND



125,155 TONS SALT
44,705 GALLONS BRINE
20,338 TONS SAND

18 AREA HEADQUARTERS

24 SALT DOMES

THE DOME AT I-495 AND VAN DORN, OUR LARGEST, HOLDS 33,000 TONS OF SALT



CLEARANCE GOALS AFTER STORM ENDS

HOW LONG FOR A PASSABLE LANE ON ALL ROADS?

2-4" of snow: 24 HOURS

6" of snow: 48 HOURS

6" + of snow: 48+ HOURS

SNOW BUDGET: \$82.7 MILLION

HOW WE PREPARE

We **monitor the forecast** closely with National Weather Service and Iteris, and a **mobilization plan** is decided.

Up to 48 hours prior, crews treat critical locations when pavement temps are above 20 degrees and weather will not begin as rain. This anti-icing is most effective during the first hour of the storm.

On interstates, about 450 lane miles of bridges, ramps and roads prone to freezing are treated with liquid magnesium chloride. On major roads such as Routes 1, 7, 28, and 50, crews treat about 1,700 lane miles with brine.

Brine (77% water, 23% salt) helps prevents ice from bonding to the road surface, reduces salt needed to melt ice, is kinder to the environment, and can lower snow removal time and costs.

Mobilizing Equipment

About 12-18 hours prior to a small event and 18-24 hours for large events, **trucks report, load, deploy and stage** around northern Virginia. When two or more inches are forecast, trucks are staged in subdivisions.

HOW WE CLEAR ROADS

In northern Virginia, **crews work interstates, major roads, and main subdivision roads concurrently**. Crews begin plowing when two inches have fallen.

Interstates and high-volume roads are made passable, then bare pavement where possible. Subdivision main roads are made passable, then remaining streets and cul-de-sacs.

Neighborhoods

Northern Virginia roads are divided among 613 "snow maps" assigned to plow drivers. Drivers complete a minimum of one pass on each road. This year, 180 VDOT employees **will ride the roads to monitor progress** and more than 30 will monitor remotely.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A STORM

Clearance Goals

For one passable lane on all subdivisions:

2-4" of snow: 24 hours after storm ends

6" of snow: 48 hours after storm ends

More than 6" of snow : +48 hours after storm ends

What Does "Passable" Mean?

In neighborhoods, an 8- to 10-foot path for emergency vehicle access. **It is drivable with extreme caution, but is snow-packed and not curb-to-curb or to bare pavement.** Crews will sand hills, curves and intersection to help with traction.

Sidewalks and Trails

While VDOT cannot address with road-clearing priorities, crews are asked to be mindful, especially near schools. There is often limited room to pile snow, especially in significant storms, to make roads passable. Residents and business are asked to clear near their properties. Check with your locality for ordinances.

Driveways

A plow will push some snow back, so view our video for tips on shoveling before it comes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- » Park in driveways or on the odd-numbered side of the street to allow plows room to pass
- » Monitor forecasts carefully
- » Adjust commutes, telework, and avoid driving is possible
- » Ensure enough gas, wiper fluid, proper tires, food, water and medicine when driving
- » Give plows room to work
- » Be patient

STAY CONNECTED

- » Report issues to **800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623)** or my.vdot.virginia.gov
- » **NEW!** virginiadot.org/novaemergency for releases, important messages, FAQs and other resources
- » 511virginia.gov for road conditions
- » vdotplows.org for neighborhood status and locations of plows

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