



County of McHenry County Administration

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For Immediate Release

September 28, 2009

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Pavement De-icing in McHenry County

WOODSTOCK, IL - McHenry County, IL will hold its first training and certification session this fall to assist public and private entities responsible for winter snow and ice operations in learning about sensible salting and cost saving measures in deicing. The initial training will be conducted by Fortin Consulting of Minnesota on Friday, October 2nd, 2009 at the McHenry County College, 8900 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake, IL 60012. Fortin Consulting has trained more than 2,000 deicing applicators and operators in Minnesota for Level One Winter Snow and Ice Operations certification.

“Most agencies, public and private, see a benefit to training and testing. Having staff trained provides a better service and can offer economic benefits to the employer,” says Mark DeVries, McHenry County Department of Transportation Maintenance Supervisor.

Removal of snow and ice from McHenry County pavement is essential to both public safety and to the local economy. During winter storm events, the use of pavement deicing chemicals is widely accepted and, as some would argue, an essential means of keeping pavements safe and passable. Pavement deicing is typically accomplished though the use of road salts. Sodium chloride (NaCl), or common salt, is by far the most popular roadway deicing chemical because

of its reliability, economy, and usability. However, it is also corrosive to vehicles, roadway surfaces and bridges and has been found to have adverse effects on the environment and groundwater resources.

In McHenry County, groundwater is the sole source for drinking water with no alternatives available. “Since the 1950s, chloride (salt) levels in shallow groundwater have increased significantly in Cook and surrounding counties (including McHenry County), indicating that the quality of groundwater resources needed to meet future growing demand is deteriorating”, according to Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) researchers. Salt used for pavement de-icing is one of the primary sources for chloride levels increasing in McHenry County’s groundwater resource.

The purpose of the training is to bring forth the best management practices and operator accountability. The training topics will include: Application Rates of Materials, How to Calibrate Equipment, Weather Conditions and Effects of Storing Materials, Keeping Surfaces Safe, Environmental Effects, Truck Washing, New Maintenance Methods and State/Local Laws. Materials will be provided to the attendees which include: an operator’s “McHenry County” snow and ice handbook, the salt institute’s snow and ice hand book, treatment recommendations and calibration charts and a variety of other materials. A well-planned and operated pavement deicing program can assist in mitigating negative environmental effects while reducing the overall costs to maintain pavements during winter storm events.

Upon completion, the participant will receive a Level 1 Certification and a sticker for the windshield of their equipment to signify their commitment to sensible salting and preserving the resource. For additional information and *Pre-registration materials* for the Snow and Ice Workshop, visit www.mchenryh2o.com.

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“McHenry County government is dedicated to providing the highest quality services for the health, safety, and welfare of the County’s residents and communities. We foster representative and transparent government to ensure social, economic and environmental justice.”