Winter Storm Preparedness and Response

Storm Readiness

- **Preparing for winter storms is a year-around activity:**

  - **Planning & coordinating**
  - **Training staff**
  - **Preparation of equipment**
  - **Contracts solicitation**
  - **Contractor acquisition**
  - **Equipment acquisition**
  - **Materials acquisition**

- **Development of Resource Plan**
- **Implementation of key initiatives**
- **SOC Mock Storm Day/Snow Summit press event**

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Resource and Equipment Plan

- **Adoption of MD Salt Management Plan**
  - **Quality operator training**
  - **Mapping of salt-vulnerable areas**
  - **Upkeep of salt storage facilities**

- **Roads pre-treated with salt brine prior to storms**

- **200-225 staff, 175 pieces of equipment**

- **Supplemental contractor resources added, as needed**

- **Modifications made based on "real time" conditions to increase effectiveness and efficiency**

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Pre-Storm Activities

- **Forecasts trigger conference calls**

- **Staff convene and review information**

- **Decisions are made to determine:**
  - **Resources needed**
  - **Timing of mobilization**
  - **Storms metrics**

- **Information shared throughout MCDOT, County government and with Public Information Office**
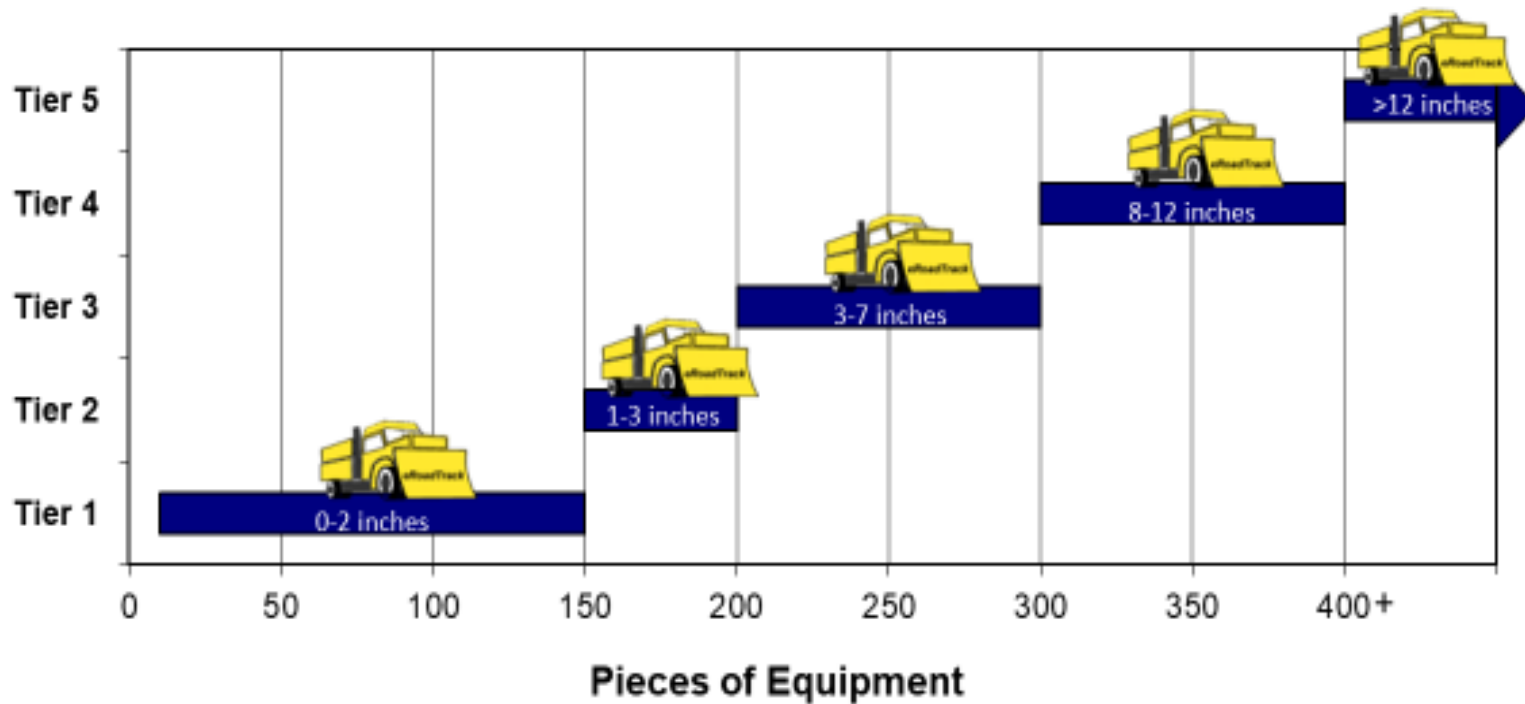
- **Resources are notified and readied**

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Storm Profile Development

- **Activate Storm Operations Center**

- **Profile developed for each storm**

- **Forecast information plotted**
  - **Type of precipitation**
  - **Estimated start and end times**
  - **Expected accumulation**

- **Resource activation and deployment times established**

- **Mode of operations determined (pre-treat, plow, salt)**

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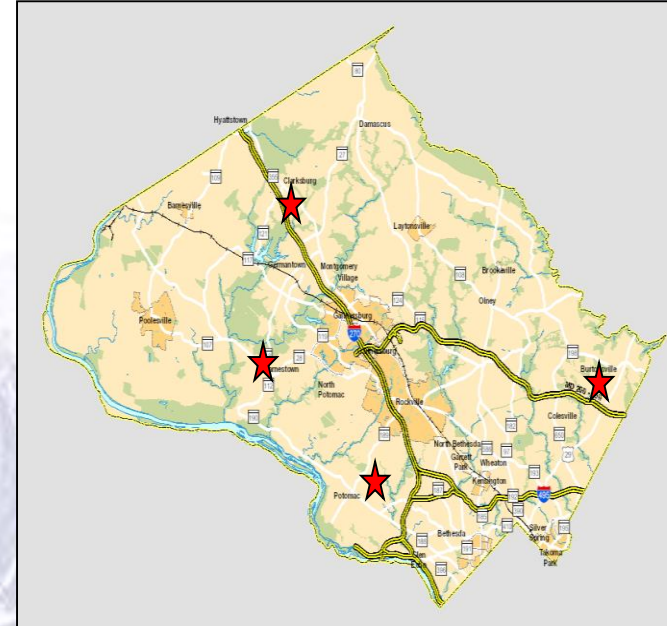*Montgomery County Department of Transportation*

Tiered Snow Response

Equipment & Resource Allocation

Resource Deployment

Tier 5 — >12 inches

Tier 4 — 8-12 inches

Tier 3 — 3-7 inches

Tier 2 — 1-3 inches

Tier 1 — 0-2 inches

Pieces of Equipment (0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400+)

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During the Storm

- **Assess pavement conditions using real-time data:**
  - **Pavement temperature**
  - **Air temperature**
  - **Grip factor**
  - **Dew point**
  - **Photographs**

- **Road Weather Information System**

- **Actual conditions continuously compared with forecasted conditions and adjustments made**

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Communications

Public

- County and MCDOT websites
- Social media
- Traditional media
- Snow portal
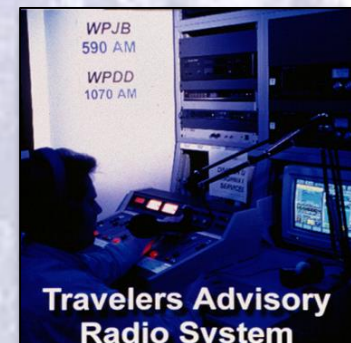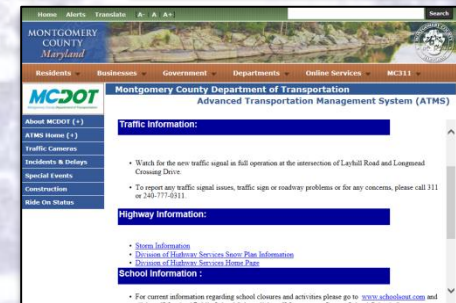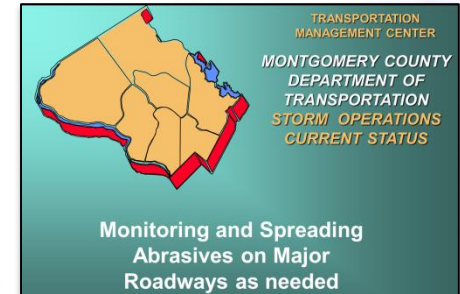- Press releases, statements and events
- Tours of SOC

Inter/Intra-Governmental and Other

- County departments and agencies
- Elected officials
- Regional agencies and governments
- Weather services
- Transportation Management Center
- Emergency Operations Center (if activated)

Transportation Management Center

- **Broadcast cameras and information about snow operations**

- **Respond to traffic signal and sign damage**

- **Work with PIOs to provide snow operation status, closings, cancelations, and shelter information**

- **Coordinate with EMG & 9-1-1 at PSCC**

- **Coordinate with MCPS on real time adjustment of school flashers**

Ride On Snow Plan

- **Goal: Maintain service if possible by prioritizing clearing of transit and emergency routes**

- **Ride On has 78 routes, serving 85,000 people daily**

- **Clear 295 bus stops and 500 shelters**

- **When conditions warrant, implement Ride On "S" schedule to provide some service to all routes**

- **Coordinate with regional transit operators**

- **Restoring transit is a key to restoring County economic activity**

Parking Snow Operations Plan

- **Goal: Keep parking facilities open and safe 24/7 for vehicles and pedestrians**

- **Provide snow and ice control services for Parking Lot Districts (PLDs) and areas outside PLDs, including Transit Centers, Park & Ride Lots, perimeter sidewalks, bus pads, shelters and steps**

- **Clearing operations conducted by Parking Maintenance Team and contractors**

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Activation of Snow Emergency Plan

- **Generally eight inches or more of snow**

- **Recommendation by MCDOT Director**

- **Authorization by CAO**

- **Requires public notification**

- **Prohibits parking on designated streets**

- **Activates free parking in County owned and operated on-street spaces, lots and garages**

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Post Storm Activities

- **Demobilization**
  - **Notifications**
  - **Final assessment of countywide road conditions and weather forecast**
  - **Redeploy or reduce resources, as appropriate**
  - **Conduct storm event debriefing**
  - **Communicate with local officials on demobilization**

- **Post Storm Activities**
  - **Assess condition of equipment/facilities**
  - **Conduct team debrief**
  - **Assess and repair damage**
  - **Activate pothole trucks**
  - **Assess resources, replenish supplies, make equipment repairs**
  - **Prepare for the next storm…**

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Questions?