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
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
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
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)
Tiered Snow Response

Equipment & Resource Allocation

Resource Deployment

Tier 5
Tier 4
Tier 3
Tier 2
Tier 1

0-2 inches
1-3 inches
3-7 inches
8-12 inches
>12 inches

0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400+

Pieces of Equipment

Montgomery County Department of Transportation
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
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
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
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…
Questions?