

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

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**NEW SALT SPREADERS USE “PRE-WETTING” TECHNIQUE
TO INCREASE ANTI-ICING EFFICIENCY**

New equipment introduced by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) on sections of I-93 and NH 101 promises to increase the efficiency of anti-icing winter maintenance operations while using less salt in the process.

Four “Schmidt spreaders” are now being utilized out of the Manchester and Derry NHDOT patrol facilities, servicing NH 101 from the Auburn-Manchester Line to NH 114 in Bedford, and I-93 from the Massachusetts state line to Exit 10 in Manchester.

The German manufactured spreaders (two at \$27,000 each for six-wheeled plow trucks and two at \$31,000 each for ten-wheeled plow trucks) have the ability to “pre-wet” the salt with brine, a nearly salt-saturated water solution, in the distribution system. Pre-wetting the salt is more effective because it clings to the pavement better and dissolves more quickly, thus decreasing the total amount of salt required and reducing the salt waste falling off the edge of the road. A user-friendly, visual control box makes it easier for the snowplow drivers to operate the spreaders.

“The Schmidt spreaders will not only reduce salt use and save money,” says NHDOT State Highway Maintenance Engineer Caleb Dobbins. “They will also increase safety for both motorists and our plow drivers because the spreader spray patterns can be remotely controlled from inside the truck cabs.”

The new spreaders feature only stainless steel and corrosion-free materials. A teflon-coated chute distributes a constant uniform salt mixture to the roadway. The use of the new spreaders on I-93 and NH 101 follows the introduction of salt brine on the same stretches of highway two years ago.