Predicting Road Weather Emergencies: Advancements in Storm Forecasting and Risk Communication

Chad Hahn Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Weather Service - Des Moines, Iowa

chad.hahn@noaa.gov

Overview

• TECHNOLOGY

- Investment in supercomputing
- Weather observing advancements
- RESEARCH
 - Crash analysis findings & application
- COMMUNICATION
 - Messaging amplification through cross-agency coordination
 - Conveying possibilities & uncertainty
 - Snow squall warning (reaching motorists in winter)
 - Winter storm severity index



NWS Investment in Supercomputing

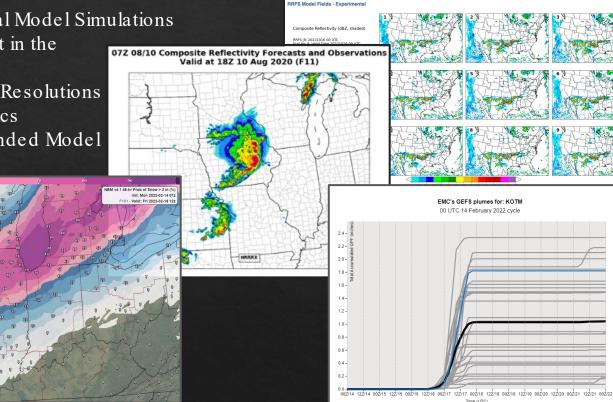
Twin supercomputer named DOGWOOD and CACTUS each operating at a speed of 12.1 petaflops, which is 3 times faster than NOAA's former system.

Combined with other NOAA supercomputers, capacity is now 42 petaflops.

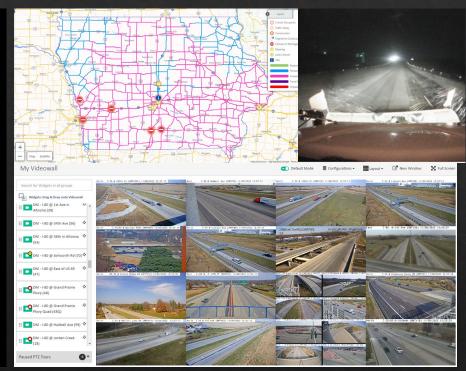
Supercomputing Weather Forecast Advancements



- 2. Collaborative Development in the Cloud
- 3. Higher Spatial & Temporal Resolutions
- 4. More Realistic Model Physics
- 5. Enhances the National Blended Model

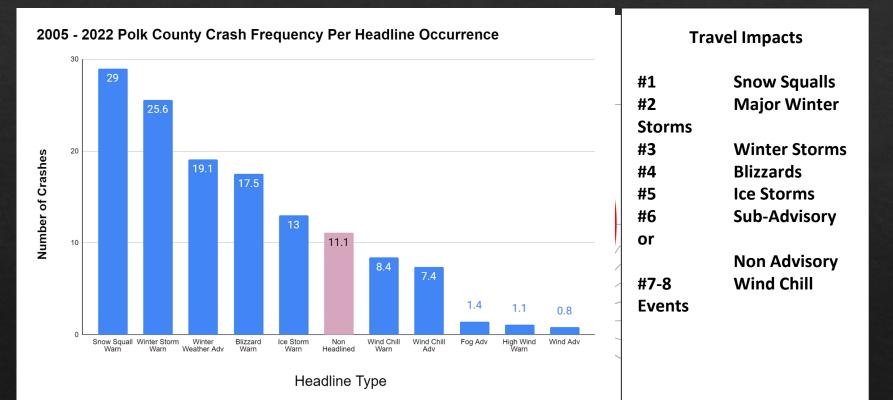


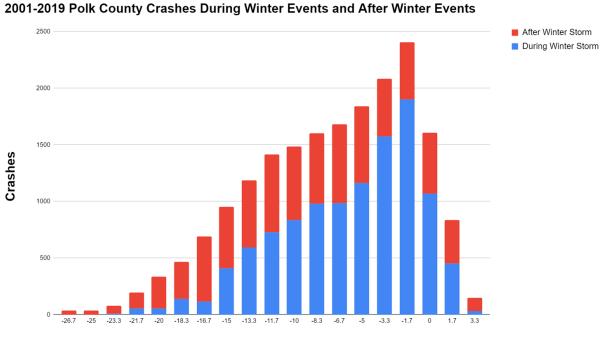
Weather Observing Advancements



Satellite Showing Blowing Snow

Real-time DOT Information





3 Degree Bins - Centered on Temperature (C)

Temperature Impacts

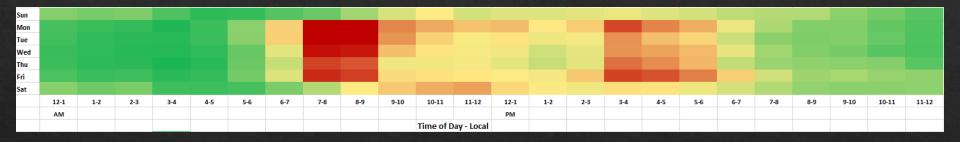
Warmer Conditions:

Fewer crashes after events than during events at those temperatures.

Colder Conditions:

More similar numbers of crashes before/after events at those temperatures.

Crash Heat Map of Central Iowa Counties 2001 to Spring 2022 - Peak Crash Periods & Travel Impacts



Winter Travel Messaging - Targets of Opportunity:

- Morning and afternoon weekday rush hours
- Saturday & Sunday late morning through afternoon/evening
- Slight increase in late night Friday/Saturday and late Sunday evening

Heat Map Analysis of Polk County 2001 to 2019 - After Winter Event and Precipitation Has Ended

- Visibility Equal or Greater than 6 statute miles (9.67 km)
- Temperatures across a spectrum of -16 F to 38 F (-26.7 C to 3.3 C)
- Wind/wind gust across 5 binned categories in mph (kmh = ~ 1.61 x mph)

								Visbility is >= 6.0 miles											
Wind > 45 mph	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	2	0	2	3	3	7	0
Wind 35 to 45 mph	0	0	0	0	4	10	17	13	17	7	15	14	42	51	10	24	23	7	7
Wind 25 to 35 mph	0	0	2	2	5	41	30	47	49	73	80	92	56	80	40	51	53	52	8
Wind 15 to 25 mph	0	1	2	7	29	26	116	120	109	170	84	105	137	114	89	79	48	44	24
Wind 0 to 15 mph	37	35	65	131	234	241	356	338	372	416	416	328	372	319	251	236	201	121	49
Temperature in F	-16	-13	-10	-7	-4	-1	2	5	8	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	32	35	38
Temperature in C	-26.7	-25	-23.3	-21.7	-20	-18.3	-16.7	-15	-13.3	-11.7	-10	-8.3	-6.7	-5	-3.3	-1.7	0	1.7	3.3

When No Precipitation is Occurring:

Crashes tend to be more frequent in colder temperatures and during periods of light to modest winds.

This May be Due To:

Ground blowing snow - Continued impacts to Road Conditions - Complacency of Motorists

Messaging Amplification through Cross-Agency Coordination



Iowa Department of Transportation May 27 · @

Here's a look ahead to the holiday weekend weather from our US National Weather Service Des Moines Iowa partners.

Strong To Severe Storms For Holiday Weekend Severe Storms Possible in North and Western Iowa Sunday Night

Sunday's Storms

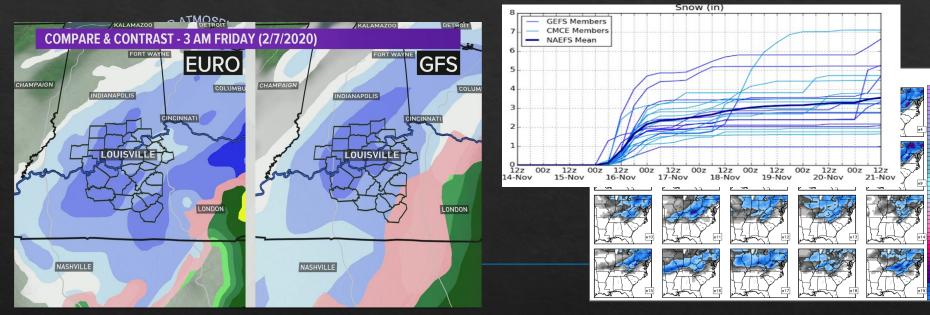
- → Strong to severe storms possible on Sunday night starting around 7pm then lasting through the night
- Main threats are strong wind and large hall but a few tornadoes are also possible
- Greatest chances for severe weather Sunday night will be in northwest Iowa



IOWA DOT, IOWA STATE PATROL, AND NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WINTER RESOURCES WEBINAR

Debbie McClung, Department of Public Safety Andrea Henry, Iowa DOT Craig Bargfrede, Iowa DOT Sgt. Alex Dinkla, Iowa State Patrol Chad Hahn, NOAA/National Weather Service-Des Moines Sinclair Stolle, Iowa DOT

Conveying Possibilities & Uncertainties

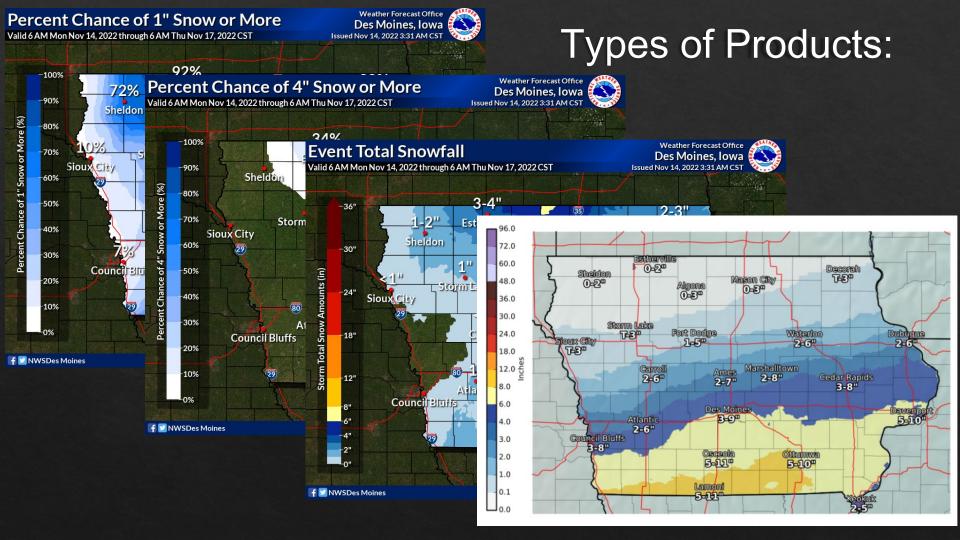


You've probably heard of a couple of our weather models like the American (GFS) or the European (Euro)...

...but now due to increased technology, we actually have access to <u>over a hundred models!</u>

Conveying Possibilities & Uncertainties <u>https://www.weather.gov/desmoines</u>





Conveying Possibilities & Uncertainties

	Snow Amount Potential						Chance of Seeing More Snow Than								
Location	Low End Snowfall	Expected Snowfall	High End Snowfall	>=0.1"	>=1"	>=2"	>=4"	>=6"	>=8"	>=12"	>=18"				
Estherville, IA	1	3	5	98%	92%	79%	34%	6%	0%	0%	0%				
Mason City, IA	2	3	5	100%	97%	86%	32%	2%	0%	0%	0%				
Fort Dodge, IA	1	3	4	97%	88%	65%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Waterloo, IA	2	3	4	100%	97%	79%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Carroll, IA	0	1	2	82%	52%	20%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Ames, IA	1	3	4	99%	93%	72%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Marshalltown. IA	2	3	4	100%	97%	78%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Grinnell. IA	2	3	4	100%	96%	80%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
		2													
Des Moines, IA	1	1	4	98% 80%	90%	62% 18%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Atlantic, IA					50%					0%	0%				
Creston, IA	<1	2	3	97%	79%	43%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Ottumwa, IA	1	2	3	100%	91%	51%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Greenfield, IA	<1	2	3	94%	77%	44%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Corning, IA	<1	1	2	91%	63%	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Centerville, IA	1	2	3	99%	91%	56%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Audubon, IA	0	<1	2	79%	48%	18%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Boone, IA	1	3	4	98%	92%	71%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Waverly, IA	2	3	4	100%	96%	76%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Allison, IA	2	3	4	100%	97%	78%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Rockwell City, IA	<1	1	3	93%	73%	40%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Osceola, IA	<1	1	3	98%	81%	44%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Denison, IA	0	<1	1	73%	30%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Adel, IA	<1	2	3	97%	84%	53%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Bloomfield, IA	1	2	3	99%	93%	61%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Lamoni, IA	1	2	3	98%	87%	53%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Hampton, IA	2	3	5	100%	97%	86%	27%	1%	0%	0%	0%				
lefferson, IA	<1	2	3	94%	77%	46%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Grundy Center, IA	2	3	4	100%	98%	81%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Guthrie Center, IA	<1	1	3	93%	71%	41%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Webster City, IA	1	3	4	98%	92%	72%	17%	1%	0%	0%	0%				
Garner, IA	2	4	5	99%	97%	88%	42%	7%	0%	0%	0%				
Eldora, IA	2	3	4	99%	96%	79%	19%	1%	0%	0%	0%				
Humboldt, IA	1	2	4	97%	88%	65%	15%	1%	0%	0%	0%				
Newton, IA	2	3	4	99%	96%	78%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Algona, IA	1	3	5	98%	92%	77%	31%	6%	0%	0%	0%				
Chariton, IA	1	2	3	99%	91%	63%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Winterset, IA	<1	2	3	97%	81%	45%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Oskaloosa. IA	1	3	4	99%	94%	71%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Knoxville. IA	1	3	4	99%	92%	69%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Albia. IA	1	2	4	99%	94%	68%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Emmetsburg, IA	1	2	5	97%	89%	70%	23%	3%	0%	0%	0%				
Pocahontas, IA	<1	1	3	96%	77%	46%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
	<1	2	3	96%	82%	40%	1%	0%	0%	0%					
Mount Ayr, IA	0	<1	2	80%	44%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Sac City, IA	2	<1	4	100%	44% 96%	14% 76%	0% 5%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Toledo, IA											0%				
Bedford, IA	<1	2	3	93%	71%	28%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Indianola, IA	1	2	3	99%	91%	62%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Corydon, IA	1	2	3	99%	88%	52%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%				
Forest City, IA	3	5	6	99%	97%	92%	59%	16%	1%	0%	0%				
Northwood, IA	3	4	6	100%	99%	95%	59%	11%	0%	0%	0%				
Clarion, IA	2	3	5	99%	95%	81%	25%	1%	0%	0%	0%				

Snowfall ranges and probabilities for all 51 counties in central Iowa

Snow Squall Warnings

Brief (30-60 minutes) warnings issued for short duration intense bursts of snow & wind leading to whiteout visibility & flash freezes on roads

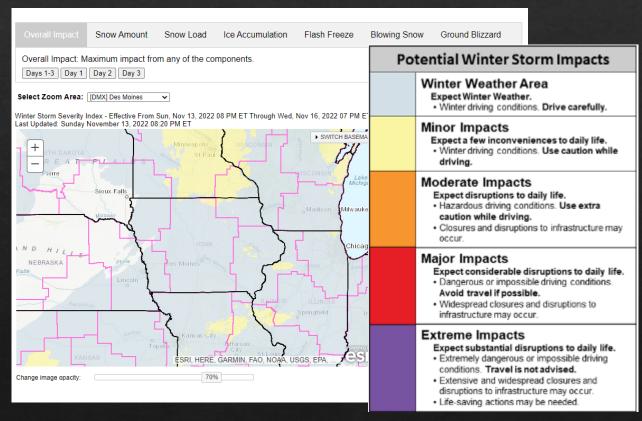
NE







Winter Storm Severity Index- WSSI



WSSI Specifics

- Defines Greatest
 Threats for Area
- Easy to understand
- Based on specific winter inputs
- Produced 5x daily
- Complement to official weather forecast

Predicting Road Weather Emergencies: Advancements in Storm Forecasting and Risk Communication

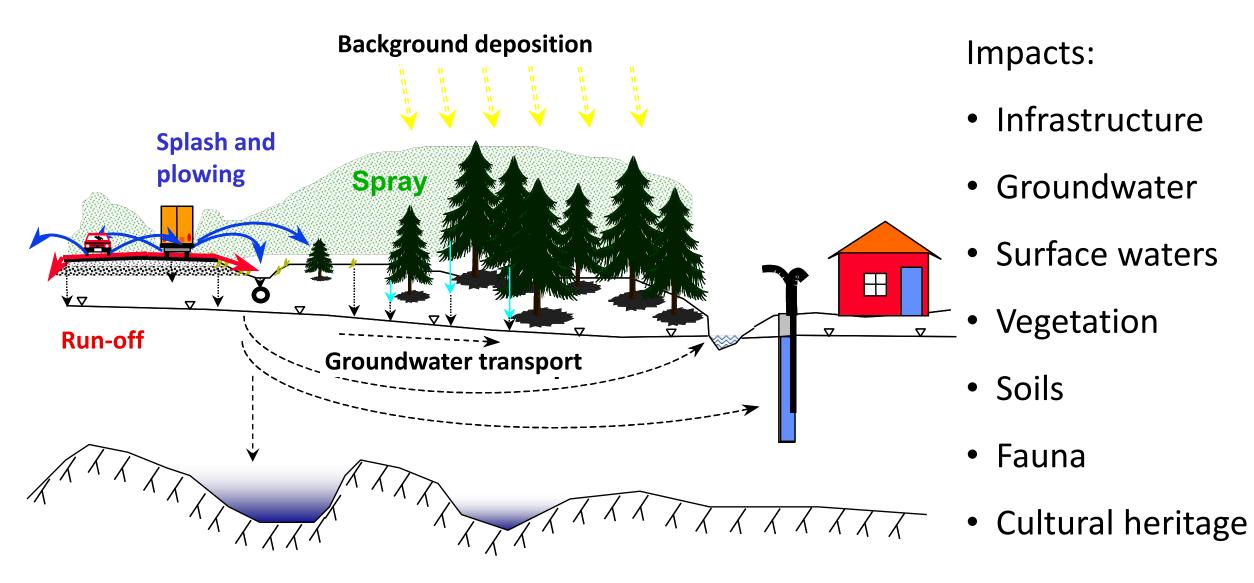
Chad Hahn Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Weather Service - Des Moines, Iowa

chad.hahn@noaa.gov

The loss of salt from the road surface – a coin with two sides: environmental implications

• Göran Blomqvist, PhD, senior researcher, VTI, Sweden

Environmental implications...



Environmental research:

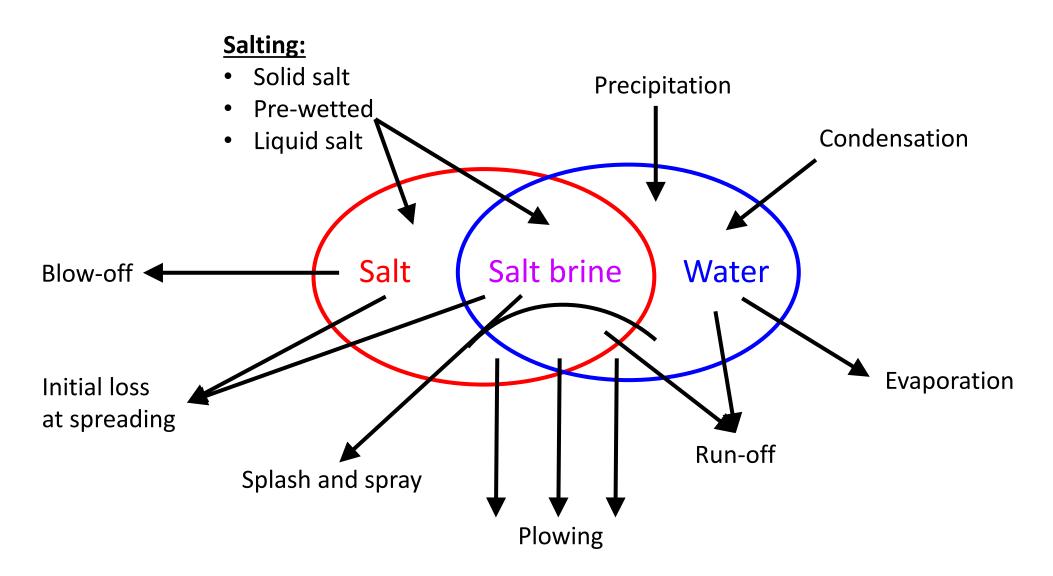
 Unfortunately, emphasis on environmental research is too often on the effect & impact side of the system, whithout connecting it to the decisions that road keepers and contractors have to do!



Key is understanding the processes

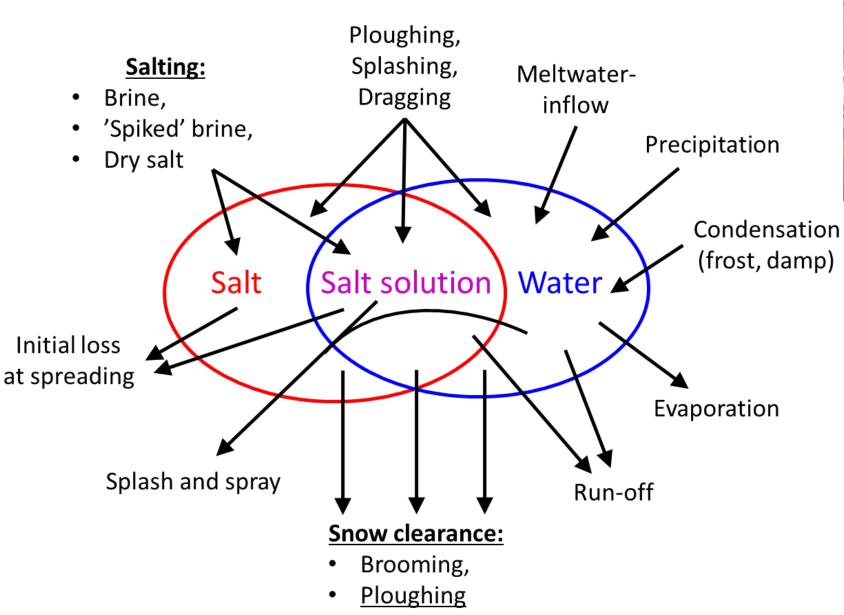
So, let's discuss the salt- and water balance

Highways:





Cycleways:





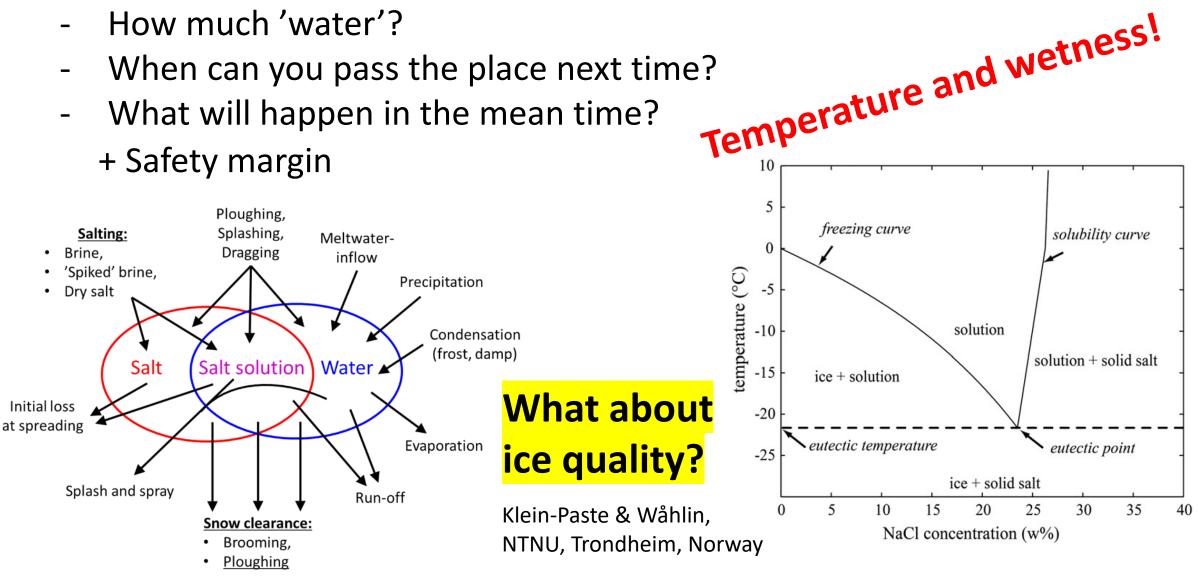






What is the optimal salt dose?

- How much salt is there to start with?
- How much 'water'?
- When can you pass the place next time?
- What will happen in the mean time? _
 - + Safety margin

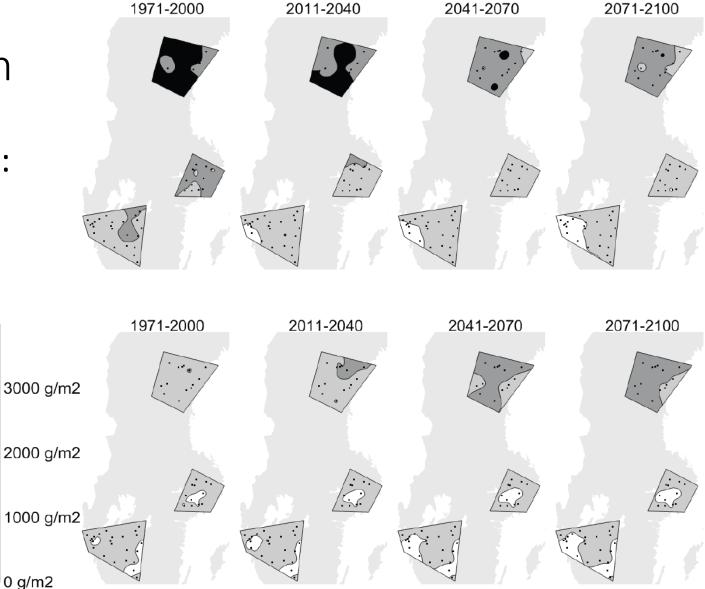


Climate change adaption

Impact on winter maintenance:

Salt consumption from

 a) snow-related and
 b) temperature related
 Winter maintenance



(ARVIDSSON, BLOMQVIST & ÖBERG, 2012)

FIGURE 5 Development in yearly salt consumption (g/m^2) (1 $g/m^2 = 0.029 \text{ oz/yd}^2$) for snow-related maintenance (top) and temperature-related maintenance (bottom).



A field case from Highway E18, Sagån

Let us follow a field case from January, 2022:

Two days, three salting occasions and nine detailed cross-sections of the residual salt on the road surface



Sagån, Testsite E18

2010 AADT: 20.000+ Research facilities International





Reference measurements of salt: Wet Salt Sampler (WSS)



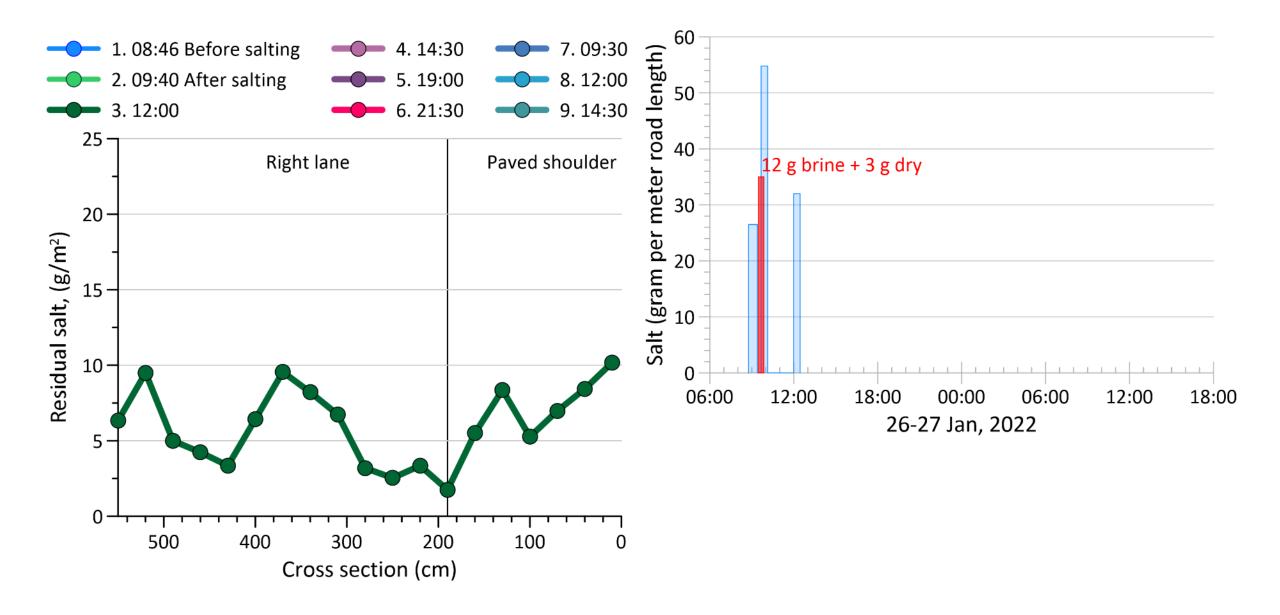
- Electric Conductivity
- Temperature
- Time and GPS-coordinates
- Single board microcontroller
- Open source, public-domain software
- Allows high salt concentrations
- Dissolves salt crystals
- Allows sampling

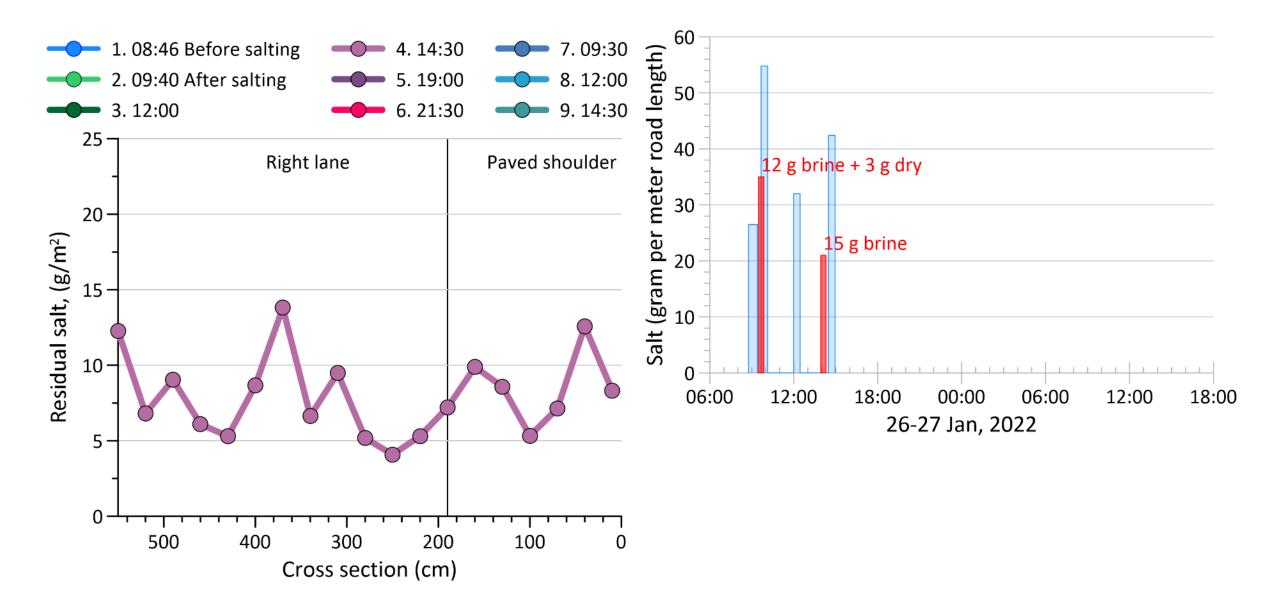


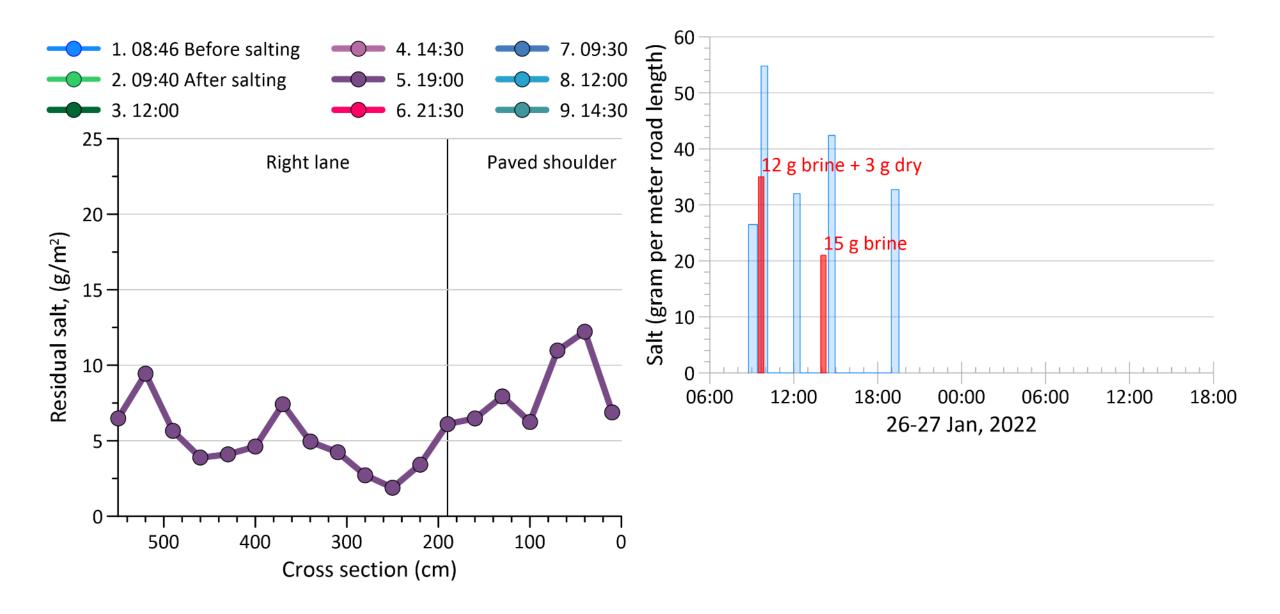


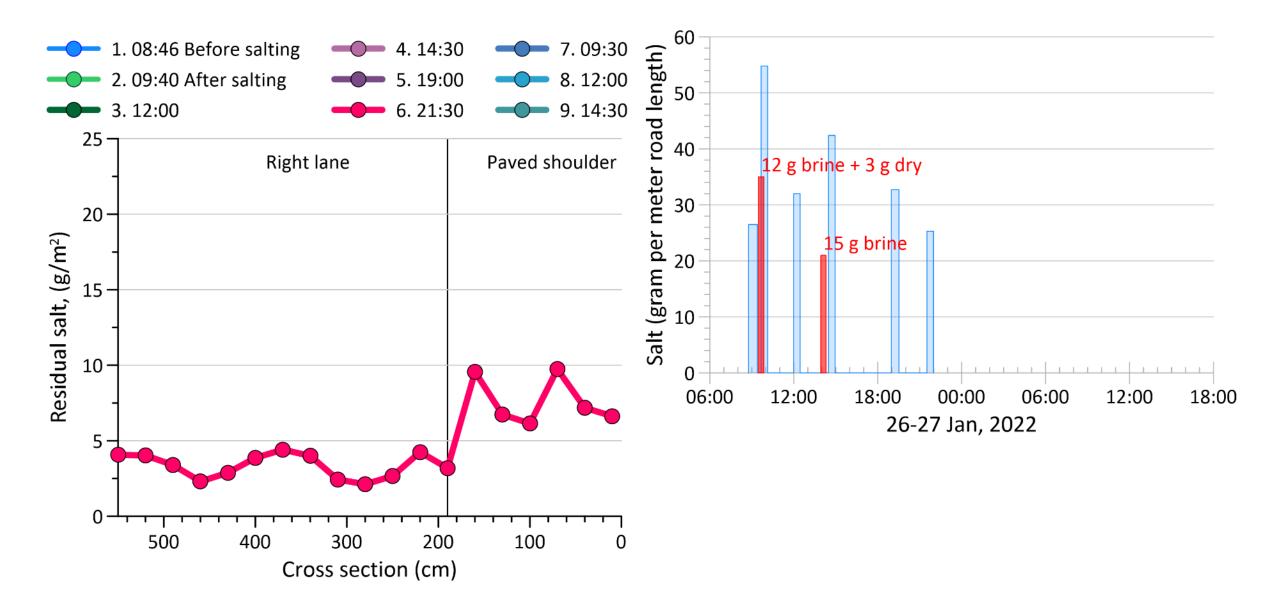


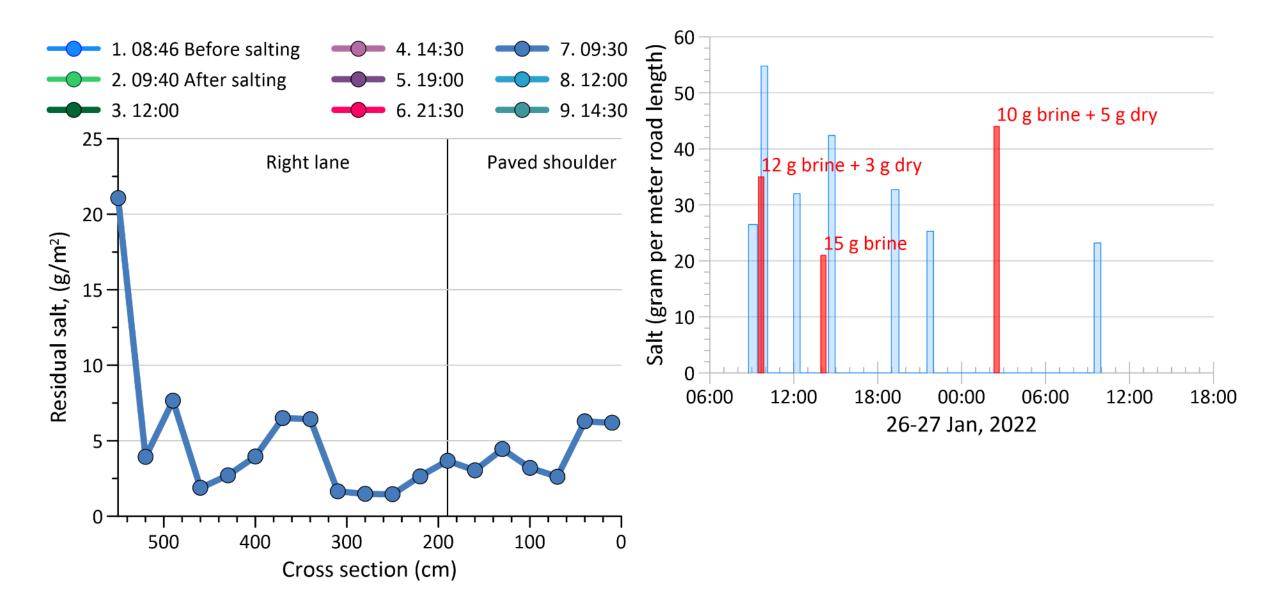


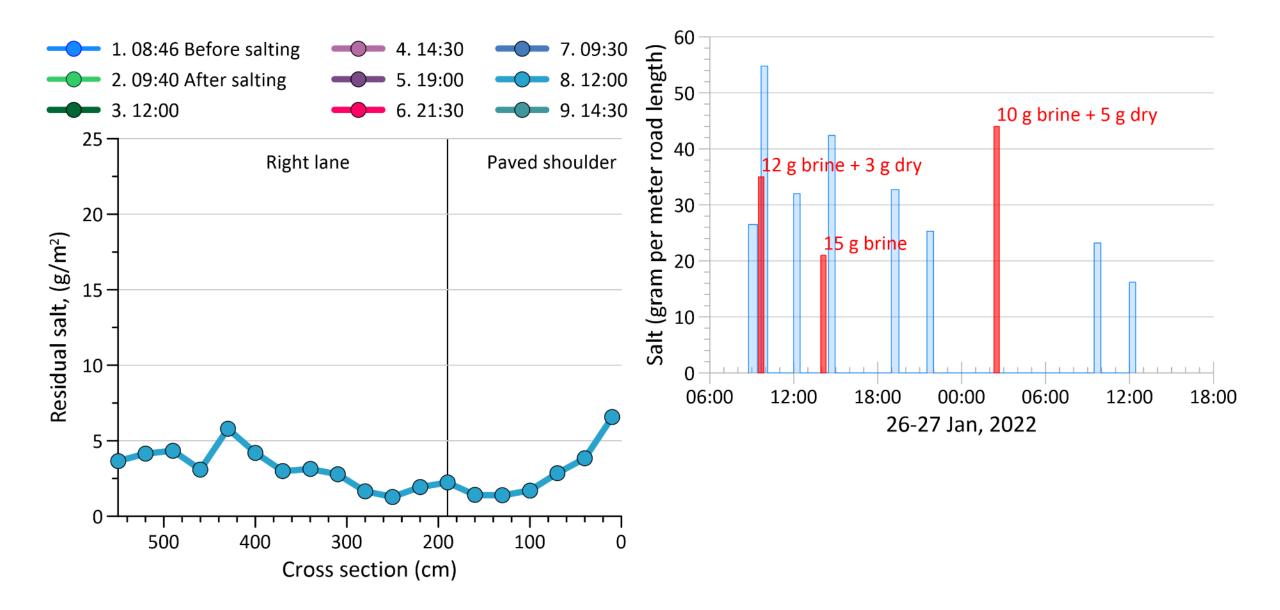


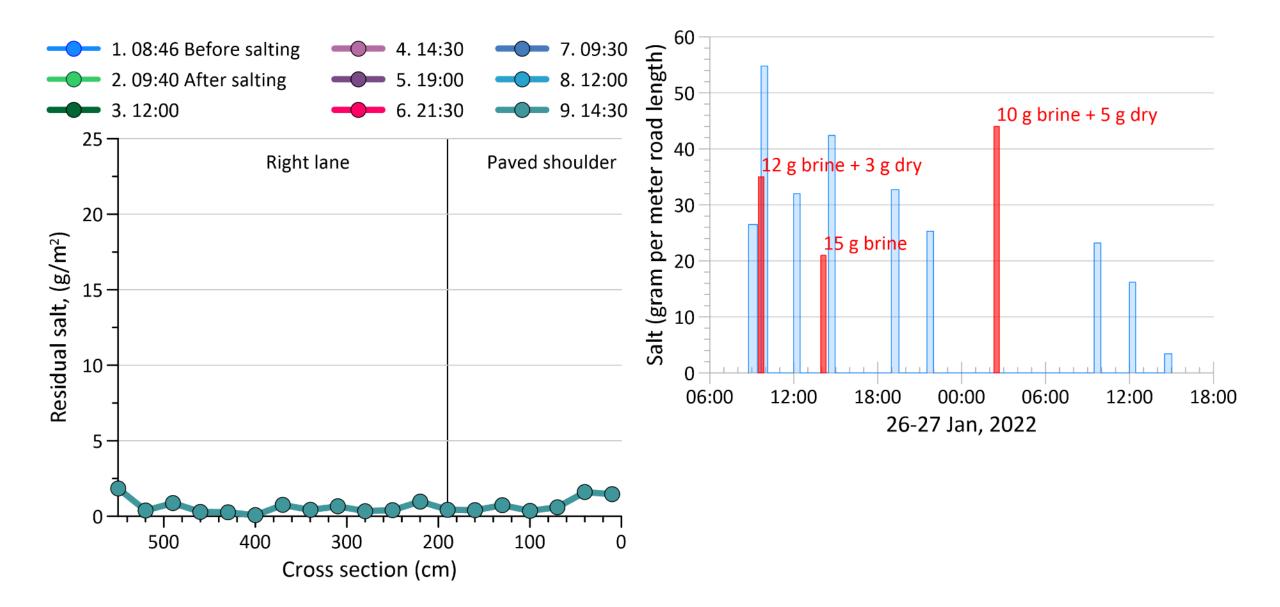












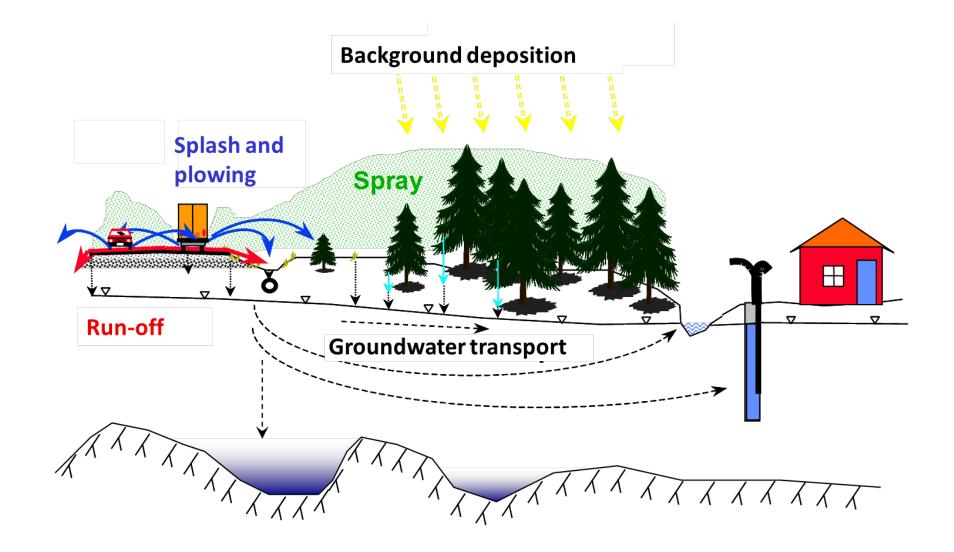
Residual salt monitoring – different methods

- How do they work?
- What does the measured value represent

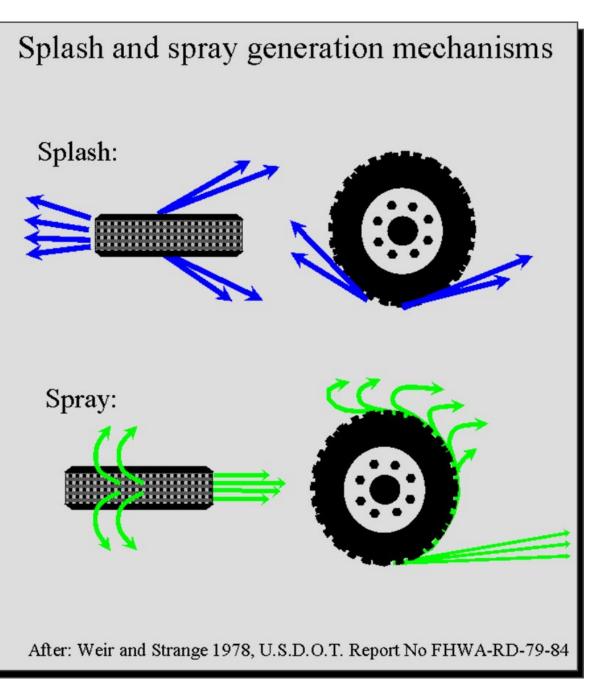




But, where did the salt go?





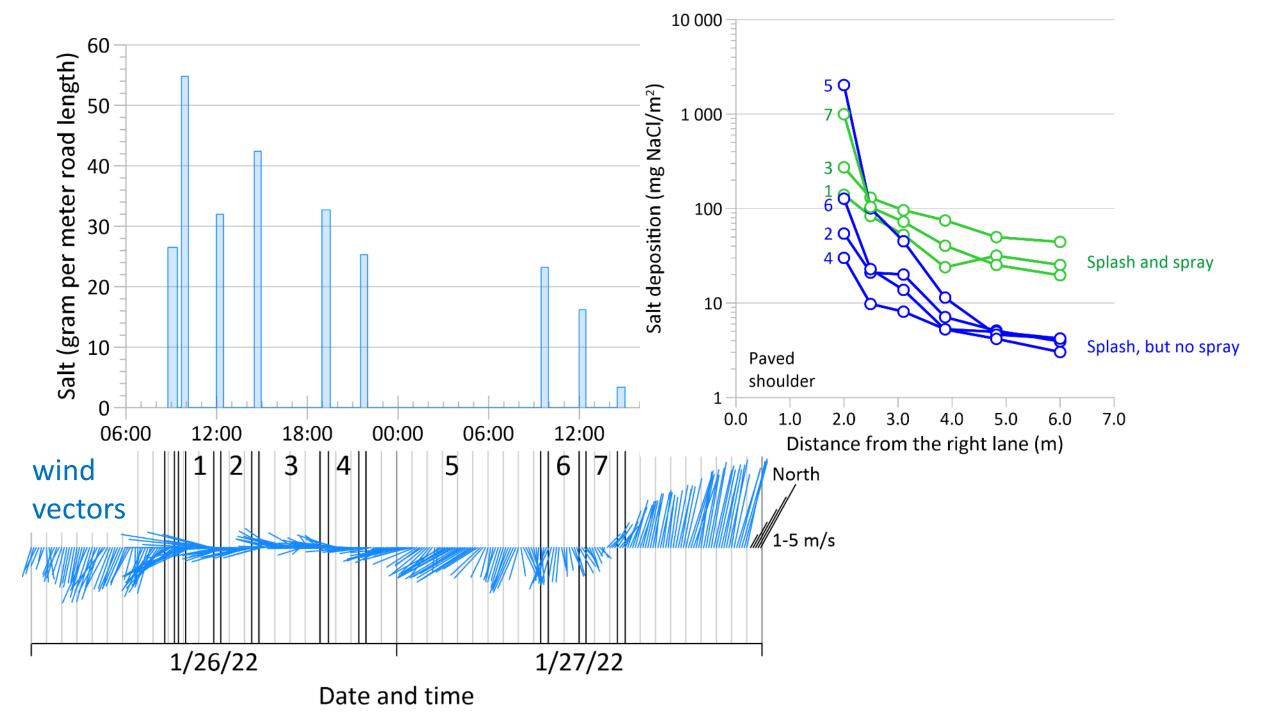


How do we measure splash and spray?

- Petri dishes collect the deposition
- The content is analysed at the lab.







- Understand the processes,
- Monitor the status,
- Remember "ice quality", not "melting capacity",
- Know where your sensitive environments are.

Thank you for listening!

Contact: goran.blomqvist@vti.se



Leveraging Technology for Better Materials Management and Cost Savings at MassDOT



Introductions

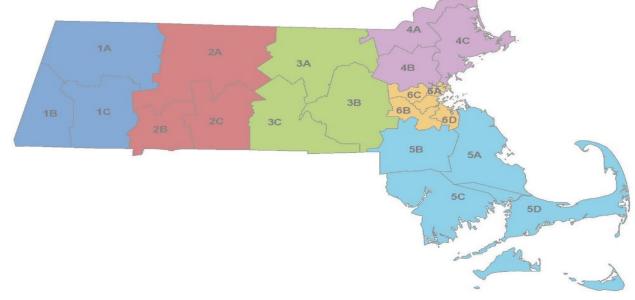
 Mark Goldstein, Lead Statewide Snow & Ice Engineer





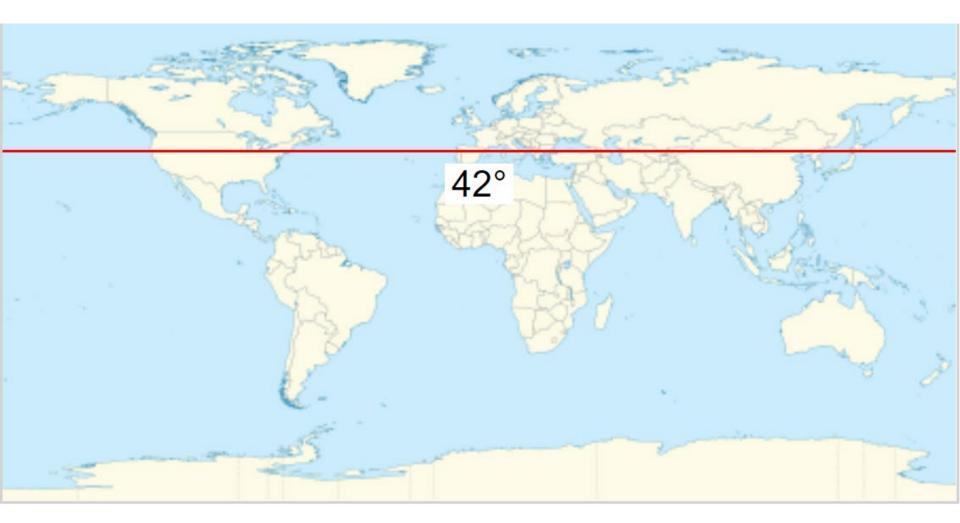
Overview

- Perform snow and ice removal on 15,000+ lane miles.
- 6 Districts and 20 sub-Districts
- 150 Depots/ Salt Storage Locations
- Over 700 personnel at the height of a storm











Snow and Ice Program: Goals

- Public Safety
- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Environment





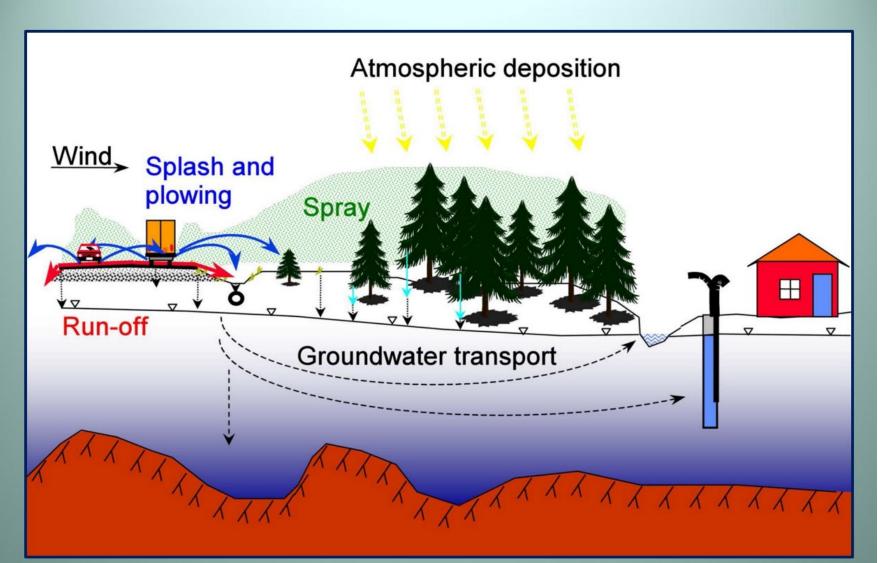
Environmental Issues

- Water Supply
- Chloride Impairments
- Corrosion
- Sand Impacts





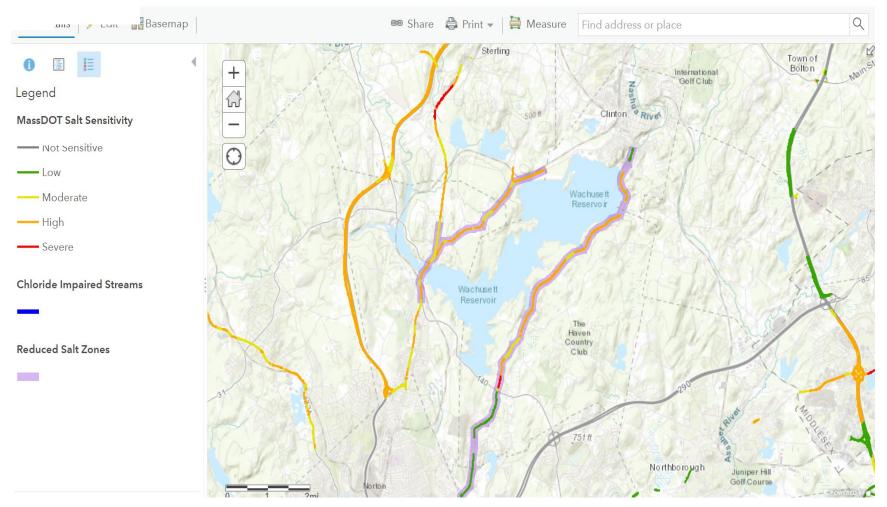
Salt Will Find Its Way Into the Environment



GIS Resources as a Training Aid



Open in Map Viewer Modify Map 😤 Sign In



"Success Through Innovation"

- Pre-treatment
- Pre-wetting
- Closed-loop Controllers
- Pavement Friction Sensors/Meters
- RWIS Stations w/ cameras
- Tow Plows
- Segmented Plow Blades
- GPS/AVL Devices
- Loader Scales
- Reconfiguring Equipment Routes to do More with Less









RWIS / Pavement Friction Meters

Road Weather Information Systems

Non-Intrusive Friction Meters



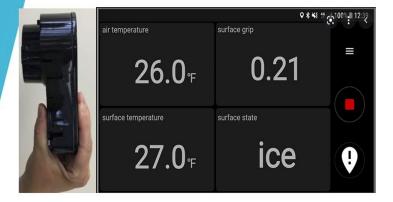
RWIS Site-Specific Information

	Massachuset V All V	10:48
	Massachuset V	10.46
lap Station Summary Stat	tion Wall Stations Alerts Reports Mobile DSP	
tations	Mass DOT - Hingham Rte 3 (Show station on map)	
AII .	Coordinates Nearest stations Grou	
Mass DOT - Andover Rte 93	Mass DOT - Stoughton Page 131 km	ricts - District 5
Mass DOT - Salisbury Rte	Altitude Street Overpass	
95	47 m Mass DOT - Mobile Trailer 1 15.6 km Mass DOT - Canton I-93 15.8 km	
Mass DOT - Billerica Rte 3 Mass DOT - Quincy Rte 93	Mass DOT - Vewton Rte 128 33.0 km	
Mass DOT - Quincy Rte 93 Mass DOT - Concord Rte 2	Station Overview Graph Camera History History Table	
Mass DOT - Newton Rte 128		
Mass DOT - Woburn I-95	Current conditions 21-Feb-2017 10:37 Wind 21-Feb-2017 10:37 Roadside (camera 21-Feb-2017 10:34
Mass DOT - Peabody Rte 128	Air 40.8 °F N Argan committeen	an Rt 3
Mass DOT - Glouster Rte 128	Dew Point 22.6 °F	The second second
Mass DOT - Canton I-93	Temperature	and the second se
Mass DOT - Hancock Rest Area	visibility 2000 m 115°	and the second sec
Mass DOT - French King Bridge	W E	•
Mass DOT - Deerfield Weigh Station	Level of grip 0.82 3.4 mph	
Mass DOT - Westborogh I-495	Surface dry	
Mass DOT - Harvard Rest Area	SW SE	
Mass DOT - Seekonk	Surface 51.1 °F	

RWIS Treatment Recommendations

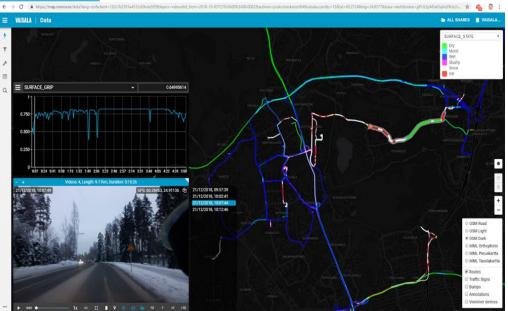
Briefing	Hourly Forecast															
Dashboard	MA BLANDFORD S	✓ 🔇 Treatment Plan: FHWA (default) ✓														
Weather	MA BLANDFORD SERVICE 190															
Local Forecast	Hour	Tue 5 PM	Tue 6 PM	Tue 7 PM	Tue 8 PM	Tue 9 PM	Tue 10 PM	Tue 11 PM	Wed 12 AM	Wed 1 AM	Wed 2 AM	Wed 3 AM	Wed 4 AM	Wed 5 AM	Wed 6 AM	
Summary	Weather Condition		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	-	
15 Day	-	_	and the second second	and the second se	and the second second	and the second se	and the second se	and the second se	Contractor in the	and the second second	Freezing	Freezing	and the owner where the party of the party o	and the second second	and the second second	
Hourly Graphs	Weather y y	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Rain Showers Possible	Rain Showers Possible	Freezing Rain Possible	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	1
Animations	Temperature (*F)	39	36	34	32	32	32	32	31	31	31	30	30	30	31	
	Feels Like (°F)	39	32	29	27	26	26	26	25	26	26	25	30	30	31	
RWIS Summary	Wet Bulb (*F)	35	33	32	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	30	30	30	31	
National Graphics	Wind Direction	ssw	SSW	ssw	ssw	ssw	SSW	ssw	ssw	sw	sw	sw	sw	sw	sw	
	Wind Speed/Gusts (mph)	3	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	3	3	3	
International Graphics	Dew Point (*F)	29	29	30	29	29	30	30	31	31	31	30	30	30	31	
Hurricane Weather	Humidity (%)	67	76	85	89	89	92	92	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	Precipitation Chance (%)	1.4	34.1	22				1940			20	27	34			
Historical Weather	Precipitation Type	22	14	12	12	12	1.2	342	1.1	2	Freezing	Freezing	Freezing	° 2	- 2	
Slide Shows	Precip Amount (Rain:in.,Snow:in.)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	Trace	Trace	Ice 0.01	None	None	
My Favorites	24 Hr Snow/Ice Accum (in.)(11 AM-11 AM)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	
Custom Forecasts	Blowing Snow Potential	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Custom Forecasts	Bridge Temp (*F)	47	43	41	39	37	36	36	35	34	34	33	32	32	32	
New	Road Temp (*F)	47	43	40	38	37	36	35	34	34	33	33	32	32	32	
	Bridge Frost Probability (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	20	0	0	0	60	60	
Dashboard	Pavement Frost Probability (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	40	
Enhancements	Treatment Recommendation	-	4	-	3	-		-	-						-	
click for details	Tide Level (ft)															





Mobile Detector





Pavement Grip Values

Braking distance vs. initial speed and friction

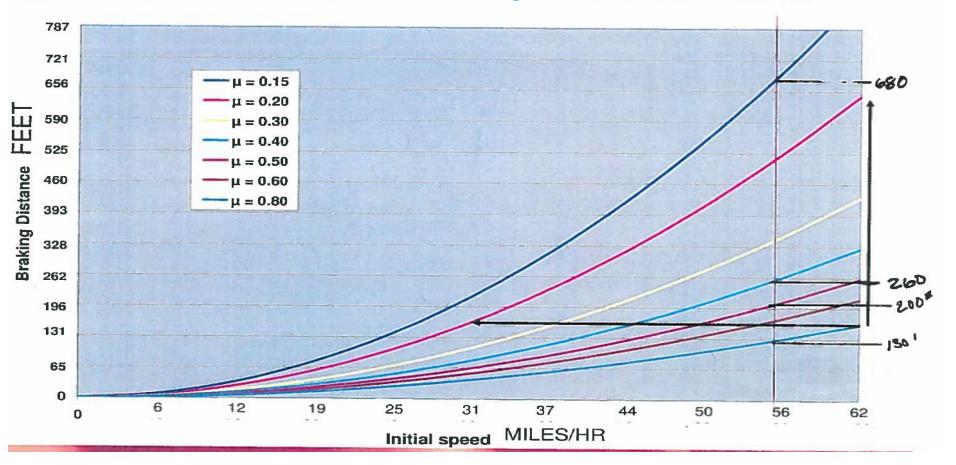


Photo Documenting Roadway Friction



Integration with Spreader Controllers



Use of Winter Severity Index (WSI) to Assess Performance / Salt Efficiency

Winter Severity Index (WSI) used as performance measure to monitor annual road salt usage efficiency

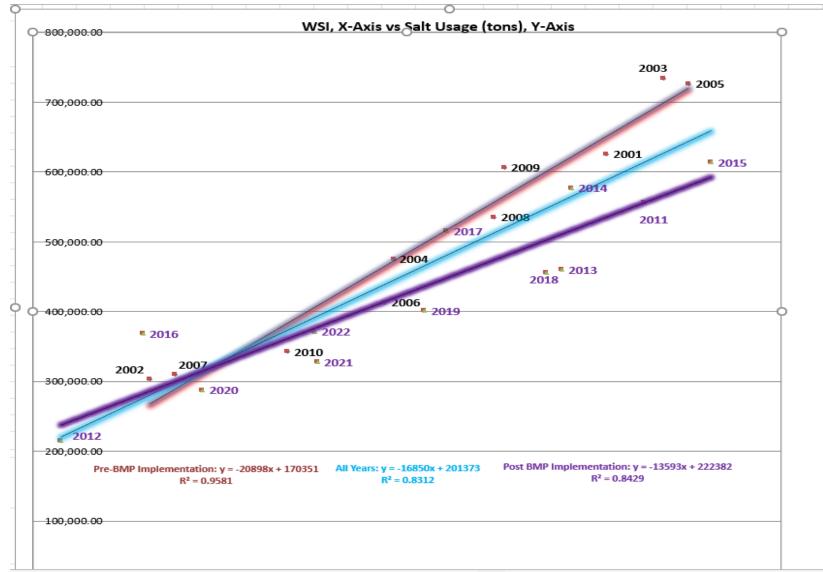
Boselly Index, Based on 3 Weather Parameters

Daily Snowfall

Daily Average and Minimum Temperature

Number of Days with Frost Potential

WSI and Salt Use Data



In Summary...

• We want to thank the TRB for the opportunity to talk with you all today.

