

Winter Operations

The objective of the Tinicum Township Public Works Department's Winter Operations Policy is to keep the roads in our Township safe and passable. To be able to accomplish this objective the department has the following manpower and equipment pool to work from; also listed are some of the general procedures that they follow.

The Township Public Works Department manpower pool consists of 4 - full time men and a part time man. They have at their disposal, 4 - large dump trucks, 1 - small dump truck and also 1 - pickup truck; all are equipped with snowplows and anti-skid spreaders. They also have a grader and a loader, which either one can be equipped with "V" type plows, and a backhoe.

The Public Works Director determines when and what will be done to handle the weather conditions. He monitors the weather and road conditions both day and night. When the Police are "On Duty" they also monitor road conditions and contact him about any changing type conditions or sections of roads that need attention.

The Township is broken down into 4 equal Sectors with each Sector having a large truck assigned to it. Each Sector has a "Primary Route" which is done first and it includes but is not limited to any road that has a medical facility, fire station, or is a major thoroughfare, or any combination thereof. Then the "Secondary Routes" are then done which includes any road that connects to a "Primary Road" or connects to a Penn-Dot maintained road. After these have been taken care of then all other roads are completed.

Once the trucks have been loaded, it takes approximately 4 hours and 75 tons of material to do a complete Anti-Skid Operation. The anti-skid material is a mixture of crushed stone up to 3/8ths inch thick with approximately 1+1/2 tons of salt for every truck that goes out. When the temperature drops below 25 degrees (salt does not work at or below this temperature) we add in about 100 lbs. of flake or 50 gals. of Liquid Calcium Chloride to aid in the melting process.

The crew will spread anti-skid during icing conditions or up to 3" of snow, after that plowing operations will begin and they will reapply anti-skid material wherever necessary or as determined by the Public Works Director.

Public safety is our 1st priority, so if the Public Works Director hears of an emergency he will dispatch the nearest truck to assist the Ambulance, Fire or Police personnel in getting to and handling the emergency. He will coordinate with the other trucks to cover the affected sector until the emergency is handled and that truck can resume it's assigned operation.