



Devon County Council Winter Service & Snow Wardens

Objectives

- Understand winter issues
- What the Law says
- Key service facts
- Salting network
- Information
- Self Help
- Snow Wardens

What does the law require?

“In particular, a highway authority are under a duty to ensure, **so far as is reasonably practicable**, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.”

**Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003
amended Section 41 Highways Act 1980**

Well-maintained Highways (Code of practice) states
Given the scale of financial and other resources involved in delivering the Winter Service it is not reasonable either to:

- provide the service on all parts of the Network;
- ensure running surfaces are kept free of ice or snow at all times, even on the treated parts of the network.



Important Message

- Drive to the conditions
- Treated roads may still be icy
- Road temperatures not the same as air temperatures
- Do you need to travel
- Take extra care

Winter Response

Five components

- **Precautionary treatment**
 - Primary salting network
- **Extended freezing conditions**
 - Secondary salting network
- **Snow (& ice) clearance**
 - Snow plans
- **Resilience**
 - Salt shortages/other
- **Self-help**
 - Communities/snow wardens



Key Facts

HOW, WHAT, WHEN & WHO

- 37 primary salting Routes
- 2630km or 1634 miles
- 20% treated
- 25,000t salt
- 3000 grit bins
- 191t per treatment
- 80% population on or near the salted network



What we can't do

Although best use will be made of the resources available to us

- Guarantee treated roads will always be free from ice or snow
- Treat all of our highway network
- Clear all snow and ice from our extensive network (especially minor roads and remote areas)
- Treat or clear roads which are not public highway
- Provide salt for private property
- Treat or clear all footways or cycleways

What we expect others to do

Resilience/emergency planning

- Ensure adequate salt supplies for their own premises as part of resilience planning
- Don't wait for an emergency before you try and buy salt – it is unlikely to be available then!
- Have contingency plans for bad weather if normal services cannot be delivered
- Listen to weather forecasts and warnings and take appropriate action
- Avoid travel in very bad weather and especially overnight



Act now, be prepared – don't leave it too late!



Community Self Help Schemes SNOW WARDEN

Benefits

- Empowering communities
- Co-ordinating local effort
- Communication link with DCC
- Town/Parish Emergency Plans
- Supporting other volunteers
 - Devon 4x4 network
 - Meals on wheels

Who would be involved

Three Key Groups

- Devon County Council
- Town/Parish Council
- Local Community

The DCC Role

Provide information to Town/Parish Councils to

- Help decide their involvement
- Designate a Snow Warden
- Deliver training to volunteers
- Register of volunteers
- Provide up to 5 tonnes Salt (1 tonne dumpy)
- Provide up to 3-4 tonnes Salt (25kg bags)
- Support and advice

Snow Warden

Must be:

- nominated by the Town or Parish Council
- received training by DCC
- be registered with DCC

Responsible for:

- maintaining a register of local volunteers
- cascade training and advice provided DCC
- volunteers work within the guidance
- plan and co-ordinate the local response
- linking with DCC through an agreed contact arrangement
- advising DCC where snow clearance e.g. farmers

Community Volunteers

- registered with the Snow Warden
- trained to work on the public highway (under the voluntary self help scheme)
- in good health (capable of undertaking this physical work)
- over 18 to register
- special requirements for under 18's
- inform the Snow Warden what they are going to do beforehand

Self-help – grit bins

Located at trouble-spots off the salting network

- 3000 in Devon
- Reviewing locations
- Contain 50/50 salt & grit
- Labels will be fitted
- Very expensive to manage and fill

THIS SALT/GRIT IS FOR USE ON PUBLIC ROADS ONLY

USE IS AT OWN RISK - Remember, be safe, be seen

USAGE GUIDANCE

 1 metre square

1 metre square is enough to cover 1 metre square.

Over use will result in the salt being used too quickly

If this bin is empty or damaged please report to

MyDevon 
0845 155 1004
quoting reference number

GB

For further information see the winter pages of www.devon.gov.uk

Devon County Council 



Self-help – salt bags

Located at trouble-spots off the salting network

- Off the salting network
- Reviewing locations
- Contain 50/50 salt & grit
- Expensive to manage
- For use on public highway

Insurance

Covered by DCC public liability insurance for voluntary work (i.e. claims resulting from the work carried out under the scheme)

Providing:

- Trained and registered with DCC
- Local volunteers trained by Snow Warden
- On parish register

Insurance

What's **NOT** covered

- Contractors employed on snow clearance
- Personal Injury
- Damage to vehicles and equipment (own insurance required)
- 3rd party damage

Contacting DCC

First Point of Contact

Highway Neighbourhood Team

Other Useful Numbers

Highways Emergency Number

01392 383329 (Highway emergencies only)

My Devon

0845 155 1004

Website

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/transportinfo>

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/winter>



Your Safety and Others

Your Safety and Others

Before Starting

- Wear suitable clothing and footwear
- Hi visibility clothing is recommended
- Tell people where you are going
- Set up a 'buddy system'
- Phone in each hour

Your Safety and Others

On site

- Assess if site is safe
- Think traffic
- Be realistic with targets
- When working in teams – work together

Your Safety and Others

General Guidance

- In severe weather wait
- Record problems to plan response
- Check available resources
- Enough salt/grit?
- Prioritise
- Communicate with DCC

Salt Storage

General Guidance

- Store away from watercourses and drains
- Keep dry and under cover (internal or external storage – sheet as necessary)
- Consider manual handling issues
- Ensure storage does not present hazard to others (especially children and animals)
- Consider accessibility for delivery and use