

RoadTalk

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Winter Technology Testing, 2004-2005 MTO's Winter Artillery



Pre-wet sand: one of the technologies MTO is testing to improve winter driving conditions.

Now that winter is here, the Ministry of Transportation will be testing new innovations to improve the quality of service and reduce costs in maintenance operations. Road Talk highlights what's being evaluated for the 2004-2005 testing season. This season, testing is being done at selected locations in all five of MTO's Regions.

1. Direct Liquid Application (DLA)

DLA is the use of liquids on roads to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. This technology is applied before any precipitation starts, postponing or reducing the requirement for repeated salt applications during a long storm or under drifting conditions. DLA has been in trial implementation since 2002 (see "Liquid Relief," Road Talk, November 2002). The 2004-2005 season's evaluations will directly compare costs and service levels on

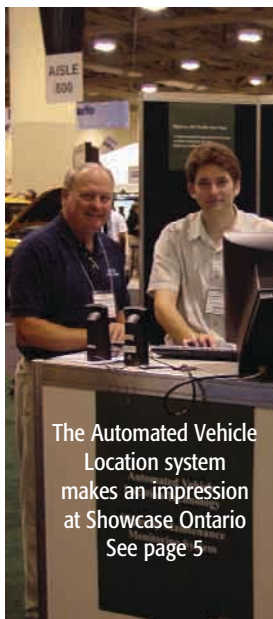
roads with and without DLA. The results of these evaluations will assist MTO in further refining DLA implementation in Ontario.

2. Pre-wetting of Granular Salt

According to controlled tests and narrative field accounts, when granular salt has been pre-wetted, its effectiveness is improved. MTO is studying pre-wetting of granular salt to determine how it reduces overall salt use when the pre-wet rate is increased, or when different types of liquid or granular material are used. The study will help determine how MTO can maximize efficiency of material distribution at lower costs under different environmental and traffic conditions.

3. Pre-wet Sand

Sand has been a regular feature of winter maintenance operations in virtually all jurisdictions, as it creates traction when packed snow cannot be removed. >



The Automated Vehicle Location system makes an impression at Showcase Ontario
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