

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2013



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
757.514.4104
757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
757.514.4103
757.871.3039

PUBLIC WORKS KEEPING OUR ROADWAYS SAFE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (January 25, 2013) - The National Weather Service in Wakefield has issued a Winter Weather Advisory for snow in effect from 1:00 p.m. today until 1:00 a.m. Saturday, and the Department of Public Works has been working diligently to ensure our bridges and overpasses are safe for Suffolk drivers.

A Winter Weather Advisory for snow means that periods of snow will cause travel difficulties and for drivers to be prepared for snow covered roads and limited visibilities as they use caution while driving.

Public Works crews today began a pro-active treatment by applying a brine solution at major bridges and overpasses located in the city. The brine (liquid Sodium Chloride) is applied before precipitation to prevent the formation or development of bonded snow and ice on the road surface. The brine solution can be placed in advance of a storm event by as much as 72 hours. Additional advantages of using the brine solution are as follows:

- Anti-icing returns road surfaces to normal faster, resulting in fewer accidents and delays.
- Anti-icing can reduce airborne dust and salt particulates.

- Salt needs moisture to be effective. Applying brine jumpstarts the melting process.
- Brine sticks to the road surface. It will not be as easily blown off the road by wind or traffic, so material is more efficiently used.
- If the storm is delayed, salt residue remains on the road surface, ready to begin work when precipitation begins.
- Crews can begin treatment in advance of a storm. Because anti-icing prevents the bonding of snow and ice to pavement, Public Works crews have less work to maintain safe roadways as the storm progresses.

Winter Weather Preparedness information can be found on the City of Suffolk website at www.suffolkva.us/pages/winter-weather-preparedness/.

###