



State Transportation Crews Ready to Respond to Winter Weather this Snow and Ice Season



Stocked salt supplies, trained maintenance crews and 1,400 plow trucks are ready to respond during this snow and ice season.

Approximately 2,000 Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC)

snowfighters are responsible for maintaining more than 28,000 miles of road during winter weather events.

“November is the launch of snow and ice season for the Cabinet, and our crews are prepared to respond to the effects winter weather can have on our roadways,” said KYTC Secretary Greg Thomas. “While Kentucky weather can be unpredictable, we’ve done our best to prepare and encourage drivers to also take steps now to be ready on the road when conditions change.”

KYTC crews and support staff have been briefed and trained on best practices for snow and ice removal in an effort to keep motorists moving on Kentucky roadways. A statewide brigade of trucks and plows are ready for deployment before, during and after winter weather events, and a strike force of eight plows is positioned for district deployment from Frankfort during major winter weather events. The Cabinet is stocked with a supply of 340,000 tons of salt, 1 million gallons of salt brine for anti-icing and 1 million gallons of calcium chloride, an additive to salt for deicing. “Our mission for snow and ice

removal is to keep traffic moving safely with an emphasis on maintaining mobility along critical corridors and priority routes,” said Andy Barber, state highway engineer. “Our statewide teams strive to provide a uniform response to achieve safe driving conditions on Kentucky roadways while considering environmental and economic factors to most efficiently use state dollars.”

During routine snow and ice occurrences, crews operate using snow and ice priority route maps for maximum efficiency of equipment and materials usage. Additionally, KYTC has expanded the use of automatic vehicle location (AVL) units to approximately half of state-owned trucks. This technology captures air and pavement temperatures, speed data, and salt or liquid distribution rates during response activities. This provides helpful information and informs decisions regarding how to efficiently apply materials. The data captured electronically will also reduce the amount of manual recordkeeping of staff hours and materials used during events. “KYTC is committed to exploring the most effective ways to treat roadways, and AVL units provide us with more data than ever to gauge our performance during and after snow events,” said Barber.

For severe winter storm events, the Cabinet has established a snow emergency plan similar to state emergency plans for other major weather events (e.g., floods, hurricanes and earthquakes).

To read more visit: <https://transportation.ky.gov/NewsRoom/KYTC%20Prepared%20for%20Snow%20and%20Ice%20Season.pdf>



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About The DBE Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program.

We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

5 Tips for Protecting Your Equipment from Seasonal Damage

Learn how to prep machines for proper winter storage



As your construction season winds down and colder weather blows in, now is a good time to think about what needs to be done to your heavy construction equipment, such as excavators, wheel loaders and articulated dump trucks,

before winter arrives—especially if you are located in the northern region of the United States or in Canada, and your equipment won't be used until after the ground thaws. To ensure reliable operation once it returns to service, your equipment will require storage, as well as preparation and maintenance before and after storage. Consider the following tips to help you prevent your equipment from damage due to winter weather this year.

1. Prep for Storage

First, complete pre-storage preparation tasks as listed in your machine's operation and maintenance manual. Review the manual for recommended intervals and a checklist of winter maintenance items, as well as oil and fluid recommendations. It's always a good idea for you and your operators to request maintenance training and assistance with proper techniques from your local equipment dealer. Familiarize yourself with decals and key maintenance points before winter hits. Thoroughly clean the machine of grease and debris, including the engine compartment. If you are storing your excavator, clean out the undercarriage as well. All machine components should be properly lubricated, and exposed cylinder rods should be greased to reduce rust and moisture while in storage. In addition, be sure to clean the machine's cab. Some equipment manufacturers offer an optional on-board air compressor to

easily remove dust and debris. Remember to throw away trash to declutter the cab before spring. After the machine has been cleaned, look for signs of obvious machine damage and replace any worn or damaged parts. Document the items that will need attention prior to spring. Check the cab door and window seals to ensure there are no leaks or cracks. Install a new windshield wiper blade and add low-temperature washer fluid. Replace any burnt-out bulbs to ensure your operators have the appropriate lighting.

2. Check Fuel, Oils & Filters

If you are getting close to your next preventive maintenance schedule, replace hydraulic fluids, fuel and filters before storing your equipment, referring to your operation manual for fluid level requirements. When you are filling fluids, leave room for expansion, especially for machines with diesel exhaust fluid (DEF). In very cold temperatures, DEF can freeze, causing the volume to increase. Though machine reservoirs are designed to accommodate, you should keep bulk DEF in heated storage. Purity and concentration are critical with DEF and can be affected by temperature, so work with your local dealer to better understand how to store and handle this fluid. Before storage, place a fuel stabilizer in the fuel tank and run the engine for a few minutes to circulate the liquid to the pump and fuel injectors. If there is a possibility you will take the machine out of storage before winter, add the appropriate gel-additive to the fuel. In addition, drain water from the water separator on your machine, and then, fill the fuel tank at the end of your last shift. Condensation in the fuel tank can cause start-up issues at the beginning of spring. Lastly, inspect the air filtration system and use the correct replacement filter to reduce the risk of premature engine failure.

To read more: <https://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/5-tips-protecting-your-equipment-seasonal-damage>

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CEI DBE Supportive Services

525 W. 5th St. Suite 214, Covington, KY 41011

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