NEWS RELEASE

LAKE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE

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LAKE COUNTY, OHIO SALT POLICY – 2014-2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Salt costs are continuing to impact the County Engineer's efforts to maintain roads this winter. In fact, as recently reported in the media, the prices for salt have increased almost three times those of last year. The Lake County Engineer's Office is responsible for over 304 lane miles of County Roads and 110 lane miles along SR 2 from the Cuyahoga County line to the US 20/SR 2 split in Perry Township. We also plow the roads for North Perry Village. There are a maximum of thirteen snowplow trucks on the County Road system and five snowplow trucks on SR 2. Our crews use a combination of treated and untreated salt, Beet Heet (an agricultural additive mixed with the salt) and/or cinder materials to maintain the freeway and County highway system.

High salt costs require us to revise our salting and deicing procedures. When conditions are dry leading up to a storm event, the County will apply anti-icing material on all of the ramps and mainline of SR 2 in the County's maintenance area. The material is not effective and cannot be applied if the pavement is already wet or rain is expected prior to switching over to snow.

We will use salt as the primary tool in deicing the freeway. This year, we will use treated salt at a rate of 300-400 lbs/mile. During each winter storm, the priority will be the slower (right) lane and the ramps along SR 2. The remaining mainline lanes will be plowed center lane to left as applicable until the storm eases or we have reasonably cleared the other areas of SR 2.

On the County highway system, we will pre-treat with an anti-icing material on critical roadways when applicable and use a combination of salt, Beet Heat and cinders. The ratio of salt to cinders will be dependent on traffic volumes and snowfall amounts. These ratios will either be a 50/50 mix of salt to cinders or a 67/33 mix of salt to cinders. Untreated salt will be treated with Beet Heet. The added liquid lowers the freezing point of rock salt helping it to work in temperatures less than 10 degrees Fahrenheit. It also keeps the salt from bouncing and scattering as much during application so that more salt stays on the roadway.

As conditions dictate, we will use an additional truck on some routes. The salting priority for the County Highway system will be hills, bends and intersections. The straights will be spot treated in a manner to keep them passable. As the storm eases, we will put material down on the straights. This will continue until the storm ends.

During the evening hours (8 PM – 4 AM), the County will put down minimal material to keep the highways passable. This is a time when traffic volumes are low. This nighttime salting policy applies only to the County Highway system, not SR 2.

Our salting policy will not deice roadways as quickly as in the past. Supply and demand in tandem with economics have forced us to make these changes. Our goal with this policy is to continue to provide the citizens of Lake County with a safe driving environment and allow us to stretch our reserves for the entire winter season. It will require county drivers to cooperate during these events. Please exercise caution and be free of distractions while driving on our roadways during snow and ice conditions.

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