

Winter Operations

The objective of the Tinicum Township Public Works Department's Winter Operations is to keep the roads in our Township safe and passable as possible. To accomplish this objective the department utilizes its workforce and equipment in the following manner:

- **Workforce and Equipment:** The Township Public Works Department workforce consists of (4) full-time men and (1) part-time man. At their disposal: (4) large dump trucks, (1) small dump truck and (1) pickup truck; all are equipped with snowplows and anti-skid spreaders. Additionally there is (1) grader and (1) loader equipped with "V-type" plows and a four-wheel drive backhoe.
- **Weather Condition Monitoring:** The Public Works Director continuously monitors weather and road conditions and determines the necessary course of action to properly maintain the roads. On duty Police Officers also monitor road conditions and will contact the Director regarding changing conditions or sections of roads that require attention.
- **Road Priorities:** The Township is broken down into (4) equal Sectors and a large truck is assigned to each Sector. All Sectors have a "Primary Route", which is done first. A Primary Route includes, but is not limited to, any road that has a medical facility, fire station, or is a major thoroughfare, or any combination thereof. Next the "Secondary Routes" are attended to, which includes any road that connects to a Primary Road. Once the Primary and Secondary Routes are finished then salting and/or clearing of all other roads will begin.
- **Anti-Skid Operations:** Once the trucks have been loaded, it takes approximately 4 hours and 75 tons of material to do a complete Anti-Skid Operation. The anti-skid material is a mixture of crushed stone up to 3/8th inch thick with approximately 1½ tons of salt for every truck. When the temperature drops below 25 degrees (salt is no longer effective at or below this temperature) approximately 100 lbs. of flake or 50 gals. of Liquid Calcium Chloride is added to aid in the melting process.

Anti-skid material will be spread during icing conditions or up to 3 inches of snow. Once the anti-skid operation is completed, plowing operations will begin and anti-skid material will be reapplied as necessary or as determined by the Public Works Director.

- **Emergencies:** Public safety is the Townships number one priority. In the event of an emergency, the Public Works Director will dispatch the nearest truck to assist ambulance, fire or police personnel in safely accessing and handling the emergency. The Director will coordinate other equipment to cover the affected Sector until the emergency is under control and normal Sector operations can be resumed.