



## **Road salt and the environment**

Maintenance of roads, in order to ensure safety and mobility during winter months, is a crucial practice in northern climates. It is, without doubt, the most important operation to allow the full functioning of our vibrant economy during an extended period of the year that poses significant physical challenges.

If salting and snowplowing are not done properly and roadways are shutdown there is significant risk of loss of life, property and commerce.

- ❖ States could lose up to 700 million dollars a day in commerce and other costs.
- ❖ Clear roads reduce injuries during snowstorms by up to 85 Percent.

Road salt is the single most important winter maintenance material. For more than 40 years, the Salt Institute has promoted the latest environmentally-friendly application technologies and sustainable practices in the management of road salt, from storage to snowfighting operations.

- ❖ "Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting" program promotes the latest environmentally-friendly application technologies and management practices.
- ❖ "Safe and Sustainable Snowfighter Award" program is popular across the U.S. and motivates winter maintenance operators.

The Salt Institute has invested in comprehensive research studies by universities such as the University of Waterloo and Guelph University on the environmental benefits of best practices.

- ❖ Studies show that when safe and sustainable snowfighting practices are implemented the impact of road salt on the environment is minimal and manageable.

The Salt Institute has partnered with leading winter road maintenance organizations including;

- ❖ The Ontario Good Roads Association to support the development of a comprehensive online winter maintenance program for operators from large cities to small municipalities.
- ❖ The American Public Works Association to train snowfighters in safe and sustainable storage and snowfighting.

Environmentally sustainable road salt management is a fundamental commitment of the Salt Institute and the salt industry who together have led the way in safeguarding the environment while ensuring safety for citizens.

**Sources:** The Marquette University study, commissioned by the Salt Institute, examined road safety on two-lane and four-lane highways.

The IHS Global Insight study, commissioned by the American Highway Users Alliance, examined the economic impact of snowstorms.



**ABOUT THE SALT INSTITUTE:** The Salt Institute is a North American based non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing the many benefits of salt, particularly to ensure winter roadway safety, quality water and healthy nutrition. See [www.saltinstitute.org](http://www.saltinstitute.org) or call 703-549-4648.