

Street Deicing Operations

This activity applies to you if you perform deicing and/or anti-icing operations on streets and highways to control ice and snow. Deicers commonly used on highways and streets include sand, calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, urea, and potassium acetate. These deicing and anti-icing compounds become pollutants when they are conveyed to storm drains or to surface water after application. Leaks and spills of these chemicals can also occur during handling and storage.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices, are required if you are perform deicing and/or anti-icing operations on streets and highways:

- 1** Select deicers and anti-icing materials that cause the least adverse environmental impact. Apply only as needed using minimum quantities. Always adhere to manufacturers and industry standards of use and application.
- 2** Where feasible and practicable use roadway deicers, such as sand, calcium chloride, magnesium acetate, potassium acetate, or similar materials, that cause less adverse environmental impact than urea, and sodium chloride.
- 3** Store and transfer de/anti-icing materials on an impervious containment area in a manner that ensures the material does not enter storm or natural drainage systems.
- 4** Sweep/clean up accumulated de/anti-icing materials and grit from roads as soon as possible after the road surface clears.
- 5** Minimize use in areas where runoff or spray from the roadway immediately enters sensitive areas such as fish-bearing streams.

ADDITIONAL BMPS

The following BMPs are optional unless the above minimum required BMPs do not provide adequate source control:



Intensify roadway cleaning in early spring to help remove particulates from road surfaces.



Include limits on toxic metals in the specifications for de/anti-icers.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.