

Best Practices for Winter Operations

Situational Awareness

- Training should address equipment operations during low visibility conditions.
- Develop procedures to cease snow removal during periods of severely restricted visibility.
- Keep current airport diagrams in the vehicle.
- Consider the negative effects of fatigue on driver performance.
- Minimize distractions: Prohibit use of cell phones and minimize use of radio equipment.
- Ensure that all airfield signs (especially hold signs) are clearly visible and operational.
- Ensure appropriate NOTAMs are in place to identify obscured and/or inoperative signs.



Operational Safety

- Close runways when snow removal operations will be conducted for extended periods.
- Communicate airfield conditions to the ATCT, users, and tenants via timely and accurate airfield condition reports.
- Update any change in conditions, particularly when they are changing rapidly.
- Issue and update NOTAMs as appropriate.
- Maintain all operational surfaces to no worse than wet conditions whenever possible.
- Nil braking is an unsafe condition. Close the runway immediately until improved conditions can be verified.

Communications

- Communicate on local control frequency while operating on active runways.
- Communicate intentions, readback clearances, and call clear as required.
- Use proper phraseology.
- Periodically check in with ATC to confirm clearances, intentions, and traffic.
- At uncontrolled fields, continually self-announce positions and intentions.
- ***If in doubt... ASK!***

Vehicle Lighting & Visibility

- Use all available lighting equipment.

