

JANUARY 2021

WINTER STORM MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS POLICY

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

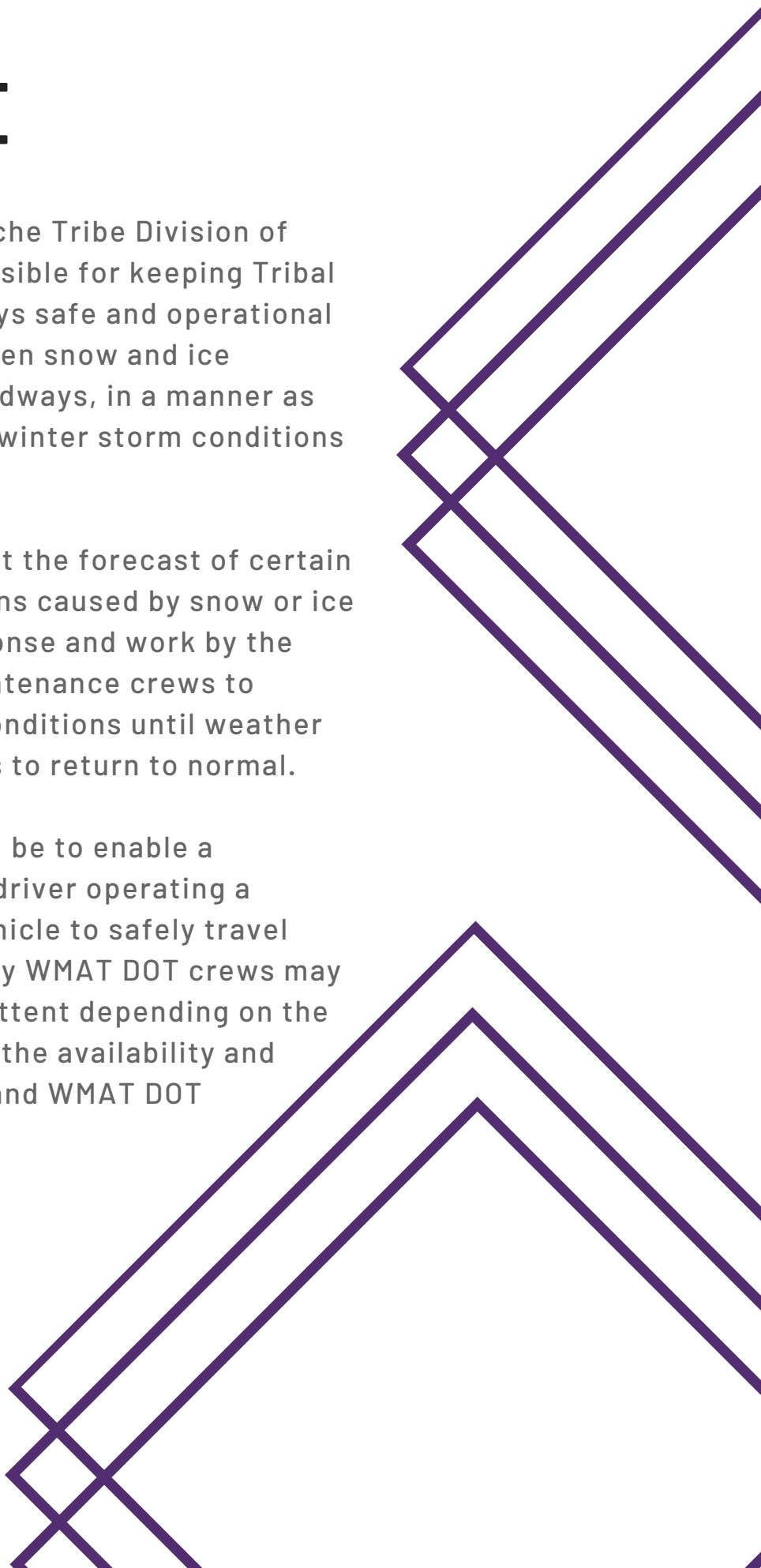


PURPOSE

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Division of Transportation is responsible for keeping Tribal owned/operated roadways safe and operational during winter months when snow and ice accumulate on these roadways, in a manner as safe and practical given winter storm conditions and available resources.

WMAT DOT considers that the forecast of certain difficult driving conditions caused by snow or ice warrant immediate response and work by the WMAT DOT roadway maintenance crews to mitigate these driving conditions until weather allows driving conditions to return to normal.

The goal of this work will be to enable a reasonable and prudent driver operating a sufficiently equipped vehicle to safely travel public roadways. Work by WMAT DOT crews may be continuous or intermittent depending on the nature of the storm, and the availability and condition of equipment and WMAT DOT personnel.



POLICY

1. White Mountain Apache Tribe Division of Transportation road maintenance crews will begin snow removal operations and/or cindering when approximately four to six (4 - 6) inches or more has accumulated on the local roadways.
2. Priority for snow removal and/or cindering is:
 - a. Main Arterials
 - b. Major Hills
 - c. Major Residential Community Roads designated by WMAT DOT
 - d. EMS, School Bus Routes & WMAT Fort Apache Connection Transit Routes
 - e. Primitive Roads (if required)
3. Priorities "a" thru "d" will be completed so that all roadways will be cleared with an initial pass.
4. In emergency situations, the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police Department may contact WMAT DOT so they can coordinate movement of emergency vehicles.
5. Roads that are not on the WMAT DOT inventory eligible for maintenance will not be plowed.
6. It is the purpose of the initial pass to open roadways so as to permit responsible traffic flow. It is impossible to plow without leaving a windrow (which may effect) driveway entrances.
7. Driveway snow clearing is the responsibility of the owner.
8. Cinders may be applied to all major hills, signalized intersections, shaded areas, problem areas and stop sign intersections. WMAT DOT will limit the use of cinders in residential areas and flat roads. Cinders may be applied frequently due to traffic pushing the cinders into the snow/ice, crushing or blowing off the roadways.
9. Obstructions in Roadway: If the operator is unable to safely conduct snow plowing and/or roadway cindering operations due to vehicles' and or obstructions' in the roadway he/she will not do so.
10. The policy also sets the following target plowing time frames based on the amount of snowfall received:
 - a. 4 to 6 inches of snow - First Priority areas only
 - b. 6 to 8 inches of snow - Second priority areas completed within 12 hours
 - c. 8 to 12 inches of snow - Second priority areas completed within 18 hours
 - d. Over 12 inches of snow - Second priority areas completed within 36 hours
11. The timing of snowstorms creates many challenges. If snow was received right before the morning traffic hour or the evening traffic hour, it is very difficult to keep the first priorities open and passable. Depending upon the amount of accumulation, approximately 4 to 12 hours is required to plow and cinder the first priority routes one time.
12. All WMAT DOT maintenance personnel receive winter operations training as defined in Appendix A.



COMMUNITY TIPS FOR A SAFE WINTER SEASON:

- Use chains or studded tires when necessary
- Slow down
- Be patient
- Only drive when necessary
- Be considerate of other drivers, emergency vehicles and snow operation crews
- Allow more travel time during or following a snowstorm
- Do not park on City streets or alleyways between the hours of midnight to 7:00 a.m.
- Keep areas in front of driveways and mailboxes clear
- Clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours of a snowstorm
- Drive at least 50 feet behind snowplows and cinder trucks

For questions please contact the Division of Transportation at (928) 338-5155, or visit our website at WMATDOT.com

APPENDIX A

WINTER STORM OPERATIONS TRAINING OUTLINE

LEARNING GOALS

1. Increase knowledge of safety policies and practices
2. Increase knowledge of proper use of equipment
3. Increase knowledge of proper/optimal application of chemicals to be effective in the winter storm management, while minimizing adverse effects on the environment
4. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of winter storm management

Training Plan Outline

1. Introduction to Winter Storm Management
 - a. Goals of winter storm management
 - b. Federal regulations and requirements
 - i. Importance of winter storm management
 - c. Objectives of this training
 - i. Present learning Goals
2. Legality
 - a. WMAT DOT personnel, CDL and staffing policies, including drug and alcohol policy
 - b. Legal rights and responsibilities as a snow removal agency
3. Basic Meteorology and Winter Weather Events
 - a. Specifically how weather events relate to snow control activities
 - b. Present a few scenarios (temperature falling, whiteout, wind, etc) and how the operator's behavior would have to be modified to deal with them
 - c. Emergency situations
4. Priority Routes
 - a. Define priority Routes
 - b. Map of different routes within the reservation boundary
 - c. Are there any route specific issues that should be addressed?
 - d. Define the level of service that the WMAT DOT must meet for each route
5. Fundamental Snow and Ice Control Concepts
 - a. Explain chemical additives
 - b. Explain abrasives
 - c. Explain snowplow techniques, applications and safety
6. Recommended Chemical Additives and Abrasives
 - a. How anti-icing and deicing agents work
 - b. Application rates and timing
 - c. Special storm conditions
 - d. Special deicing problems (bridges, intersections)
 - e. When to reapply

7. Recommended Nonadditive Practices
 - a. What are they
 - b. When these are applicable
8. Equipment – Operation, Calibration, and Maintenance
 - a. Trucks
 - b. Plows
 - c. Spreaders and controls
 - d. Loaders
 - e. Emergency repair and refueling stations
 - f. Preventive Maintenance
 - g. Lighting and signage of equipment
9. Winter Storm Safety
 - a. WMAT DOT safety policies
 - b. Defensive driving techniques
 - c. Winter survival in open rural country