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MD Smart Salt Program Updates

January 17, 2023
WSSC Salt Summit Day 2

Phase I MS4 Permit Changes

Phase I Large Permits have been adopted and the Phase I Medium permits will require:

- County Salt Management Plan (3rd year of permit)
- Equipment Replacement Schedule
- Annual Salt Management Training - staff and contractors; property managers and homeowner training
- Tracking & Reporting (4th year)
 - Amount and location of deicing materials applied per snowfall event
 - Total amount per event; annual total per lane mile per inch of snowfall



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State Sponsored Voluntary Training Program

- Working to provide training and State certification (UMD Environmental Finance Center)
 - Work with outside consultant to adopt hybrid off-the-shelf training for facilities maintenance, commercial applicators, elected representatives, property managers, and public. (Leverage existing training programs)
 - Applicators & Property Managers (voluntary certification)
 - Local elected officials and public (no certification)
 - Building partnerships (Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional certification)
- Leverage additional non-certification programs for roads crews (SHA Salt College)
- MDE is contracting ICPRB to help us finalize our online Smart Salt Manual for applicators

Smart Salting training

In Level 1 training, individual road salt applicators learn best practices to reduce their salt use while maintaining safety. Organizations can earn Level 2 certification by assessing their salt use and taking steps to minimize it. The MPCA is now offering a new Smart Salting certification for Property Managers. The goal is to help property managers save money and protect water resources.



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Looking beyond the permits

- Common goals for surface Water Protection and Restoration and drinking water source water protection (Working with both sides of MDE to provide funding where needed)
- Expand outreach capacity of all groups
 - WSSC Salt Summit team
 - Baltimore Reservoirs team
 - Landscaping groups (Green Industry Council, Chesapeake Landscape Professionals, etc.)



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Outreach Priorities

- MDE is looking to bring on a summer intern and a Chesapeake Conservation Corps member this year to help us expand our outreach strategy on social networks
- UMD Extension w/MDE as collaborator, was awarded \$50,000 grant from Charles County to produce videos for seasonal landscape workers in English and Spanish
- Continue to work with WSSC & the Baltimore Reservoirs Group
- Want to engage CBLP to help reach property management groups
- Provide information on how to report salt spills
 - MDOT Know your roads tool
 - Guide on who and how to report a spill
- Provide “Success Stories” of local and national examples of how Smart Salting can improve your bottom line



Research Opportunities and preliminary findings

- What are the impacts on Stormwater BMPs
 - Flushing effect when saline waters enter the BMP due to ionic bond exchange
 - Interaction with organic matter can lead to concretion
 - timing and extent of pollution from BMP leaching from natural environment and stormwater management practices.
 - Pooled monitoring and work with UMCP
- Impacts on our processed drinking water (pollutant release)
- LONG TERM – What are the economic impacts (Pros/Cons)



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QUESTIONS?

Link to MDE's Winter Salts Story Map (General Information)



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