

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BREWER

SALT BRINE

For the first time the City of Brewer will be testing the use of salt brine on select City streets including, State Street, Wilson Street and a section of Main Street. Salt brine is a simple mixture of water and rock salt sprayed onto the road in a liquid form intended to provide early melting of snow at the onset of a storm, which should help prevent snow from packing onto the pavement. Many people confuse salt brine with calcium chloride which is typically sprayed directly onto salt or sand to help the material stick to the road and lower melt temperatures. Where salt and salt brine are only effective at 15° and above the addition of liquid calcium brings the effective temperature down near 0°, therefore when a storm is expected to start when temperatures are anticipated to be near 15° or below prewetting with salt brine may not be a good option.

When encountering a truck spraying salt brine on the road it is best to keep back when behind them or move towards the shoulder while going by the truck on the opposite side of the road, as the salt brine truck will be crowding the centerline of the road where the materials will be most effective. This will allow us to get the brine down where needed and keep as much of the brine of other vehicles.

The truck the City of Brewer will be using to spray the salt brine is a 1-ton rack truck with two tanks in the bed and a spray bar on the very back. Setting the truck up for brine was relatively inexpensive, the City already owned the truck which we had already equipped with tanks for other uses and the salt brine is being purchased from the City of Bangor, who already owns all the needed equipment to mix the brine, at a very reasonable price.

From the Desk of
David Cote, Director of Public Works
City of Brewer