EQUIPMENT CLEAN-UP

Clean up of equipment, during a storm season, varies greatly by region and site specific circumstances. The degree of between-storm cleaning is contingent on how closely snow events are spaced and whether that facility is environmentally set up to wash salt from trucks. If they are not, a time should be scheduled at the closest facility with the proper drainage containment system. The practice of vehicle and grounds clean up is extremely important to the longevity of the equipment, accounting for and most efficient use of materials, as well as personnel safety. After a storm, employees should unload as much material as possible back on the material stockpile. Then the remaining excess material between the hopper and the bed needs to be shoveled out and returned to the material containment area. Also, the vehicles equipped with

pre-wetting tanks need to be emptied.

The first available lull in snow activity is the time for more thorough cleaning. If the vehicles cannot be cleaned on site, it is advisable to schedule cleaning and repairs at the same time. That will enable the mechanics to work on clean equipment and produce a faster turnaround time for reuse of the vehicle during a storm event, instead of a particular piece of equipment having to travel to and from the assigned location several times.

During the wash, special attention needs to be focused on electrical connections, hydraulic fittings, suspension, frame rails, brakes and transmission. The radiator also requires extra attention, but should always be rinsed with low-pressured water. While rinsing, the suspension needs to be checked for damage. This is the optimum time to check the slack adjuster for the brakes. After the entire vehicle has been washed, the windshield, mirrors and light lenses need to be examined to see if hand cleaning is necessary. Prior to scrubbing, the cab of the truck needs to be cleared of all trash and personal belongings. Anywhere salt may have come in contact with the interior needs to be cleaned. (I.e. pedals, spreader controls and floorboards)

After washing the loader, special focus needs to be applied to cleaning the interior because of the high concentration of material tracked into the machine.

Grease all fittings on the plow and spreader box and check for wear, damage and adjustment of spreader box chains. The last item of the clean up as the truck is pulled up to plug in, is checking to see if the sticker from the shop requires a preventive maintenance check (PM). If the vehicle needs serviced, the Unit Foreman is to be notified and the shop contacted to schedule the work.