

3/ MAKING EQUIPMENT COUNT

Equipment can make or break a maintenance organization. It must be suited to the job. Winter operations require the highest level of equipment maintenance.

It is a good idea to review equipment needs immediately after each winter season, when they are fresh in your mind. If new equipment is required, it can be ordered with good assurance of delivery prior to the next winter season.

But the secret to successful winter maintenance is the ability to fight storms with equipment already on hand. The key is proper equipment maintenance. Snow and ice control equipment should never be stored without being cleaned. It should be inspected for possible repairs, and repaired if necessary.

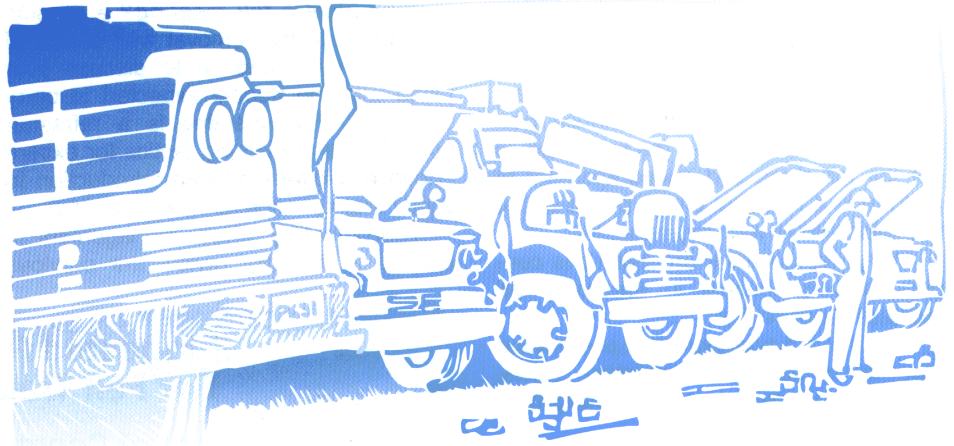
In fall training sessions, discuss each type and class of equipment which employees will operate. Go over strengths and weaknesses of each. Describe performance capabilities, load and weight limits, specifications, safety considerations, attachments and modifications.

If possible, assign each operator to a specific spreader, plow or loader. Man and machine make a better team when they work together regularly. The feeling that a vehicle "belongs" to an employee also will make an operator show more responsibility for its upkeep.

In some organizations, it may be necessary to switch operators from one piece of equipment to another. Then management must depend on a system of checks to ensure that equipment is properly operated and maintained.

Thoroughly inspect all equipment during late summer or early fall. Make all repairs and order stocks of parts not locally available. Pay particular attention to these components:

- Inspect condition of moldboard and cutting edge of all snowplows. Order adequate stocks of parts for all types of plows.
- Inspect snowplow hoists and underbody blades. Check air and hydraulic hoses and other critical parts of power units and obtain adequate replacement stocks.
- Mount, load and test all spreaders. Make necessary repairs to spreaders and order critical parts. Calibrate all spreaders and place calibration card on visor or in glove compartment of truck. Supervisors should have copies of all calibration cards on file.



- Inspect all vehicle lighting, including wiring and sockets on headlights, tail lights, stop lights and turn signals. (Warning lights must be visible from all sides, whether bodies are raised or lowered.)

- Make sure sufficient stocks of tire chains, tires, spreader repair parts and other miscellaneous supplies are on hand.

- Make sure all personnel are familiar with spreader controls, whether manual or automatic.

To keep equipment in top condition, establish a regular maintenance routine to be followed all winter. Equipment operators should inspect vehicles after each storm and report needed repairs to the garage or to the staff mechanic. Spreaders will need to be recalibrated after repair to the hydraulic system.

The first step in vehicle maintenance is to make sure every operator knows what

Proper equipment maintenance is essential to a successful winter maintenance program. Equipment should be cleaned and parts ordered before it is stored.

to expect of each piece of equipment. Operators should check these items carefully.

Spreaders—Inspect pumps, hoses, controls, and fittings. Check spinners, augers, and auxiliary engines.

Controls—The two major components of any hydraulic system are the pump and the controls, whether manual or automatic. All operators should become thoroughly familiar with spreader controls. No two hydraulic systems are exactly the same. Therefore, controls may differ from truck to truck. Know your equipment and how the auger or conveyor and the spinner react at various settings.

Plows—Carefully inspect blades after each use. If blade wear begins eating into the moldboard, it will be very costly to replace. Remember that snow plow blades do not wear evenly. Replace blades when they are badly worn **at any point!** Have operators check blade wear during storms.

(Right-hand plows wear most rapidly on the left side, while the opposite is true for left-hand plows. Reversible plows may show wear on either side, depending upon operating time in each position.)

All Electrical Equipment—Inspect and service all lighting and electrical



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