

# PRE-TRIP WALK-AROUND AND STORM SEASON EQUIPMENT CHECKS

Subdistricts inform the Unit Foremen of impending weather and the work crews are then requested to do an initial equipment check, prior to precipitation. That inspection may include; checking that all snow trucks are plugged in, examining plows for wear and damage, refueling the truck if needed and inspecting circuit breaker continuity. Another important piece of equipment to check is the loader. The basic checks, for the loader, such as lights and tires are similar to that of the truck inspection. Checking fuel levels and reserve stores for refueling during the storm event are vital precautions. Most INDOT facilities no longer have fuel pumps on site, so fuel for loaders may have to be hauled in for a fill up. If the fuel is not to capacity and no reserve is readily available, valuable storm fighting time may be lost, while having to make a fuel run.

The "Pre-Trip Walk-Around" includes checking the oil, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid and washer fluid levels, tire-tread and inflation, brakes, plow hookup security, plow blade quality and wiper blades. The walk-around should also include cleaning the windows, mirrors and light lenses. Upon starting the truck, the heater and defroster should be checked, the mirrors should be angled for maximum visibility, and the lights should be turned on and checked. The Muncie System, pre-wetting and anti-icing systems should be turned on and the spreader function should be checked prior to loading. The last two actions necessary before snow service can begin are fastening the seat belt and a radio clarity check.

If the walk-around occurs between shifts, it is important to shut the engine down and inspect for hydraulic and transmission leaks during a thorough under-the-hood inspection. Spreader box chains should be checked for proper adjustment. The spreader chute and material load should be checked to make sure they are not frozen. It is important to emphasize, during this inspection, the condition of the plow blade such as, missing bolts, excessive wear or visible damage. ***Equipment that is warmed up and functioning correctly, will contribute to a successful snow event.***