

Over-Use of Deicers and Limited Liability Legislation

What's the issue?

Many commercial applicators know they are putting down too much salt but face conflicts of interest between using effective amounts and competing in their marketplace. Fear of lawsuits and pressure from customers to apply additional amounts are the major reasons applicators over-salt.



Why is it important?

Chloride found in deicing salts is permanently accumulating in lakes, groundwater, streams and soil. It is contaminating drinking water supplies, is toxic to fish and plants. There is no feasible way to remove chloride once it's dissolved in water. Keeping our fresh water resources 'fresh' is extremely important.

Chloride pollution is forever.

The corrosive affects of chloride cost business, government and individuals millions in repair, replacement and application every year. Salty sidewalks hurt pets.

Chloride is correlated to impervious surfaces. Future development and growth will extend the reach of chloride's devastation.

What we're supporting.

It makes sense to only apply what deicer is needed for public safety, and avoid the extra. We support:

- 1) legislation providing limited liability from personal injury and property damage to commercial applicators and their customers when applicators take voluntary training, certification, and document best practices,
- 2) continuous funding for voluntary, statewide training for all applicators, and
- 3) chloride reduction priorities for all state agencies, because deicers are the #1, but not the only cause, of chloride pollution.



Please use deicers carefully. One teaspoon of deicer permanently pollutes five gallons of water.

How will Limited Liability help?

For business,

- incentivize commercial applicators and customers to use best practices
- reduce fear of personal injury and property damage lawsuits
- increase pool of certified applicators for property owners to hire

For clean water,

- reduce total amount of deicers used
- align commercial and public applicators in common reduction goals/practices
- promote best practice: applicators report 30-60% reduction in deicer use after training

For citizens,

- consistent modeling and expectations of deicer use

What expensive problems will this prevent?

- Loss of revenue from declining fishing and tourism
- Premature aging of infrastructure, bridges, roads; buildings, furnishings and landscaping
- Contaminated ground and drinking water with no practical treatment options
- Overspending on deicer application and cleanup - wasteful use of resources
- 1 Ton Salt costs \$800 to \$3340 in cumulative damages (TCMA Chloride Plan)



What examples do we have?

- Similar legislation in New Hampshire (2013) and Illinois (2016)
- Mn 2016 SF3298: Hawj, Bonoff, Marty and HF2594 Kahn, Erhardt
- Mn 2017 HF1016 Hausman

Where is Minnesota with chloride now?

Since the 1990's increasing amount of deicers have been accumulating in Minnesota's waters.

- Statewide: 47 chloride impairments and elevated chloride in 30% wells (MPCA)
- Twin Cities: 39 impairments - 19 lakes, 16 streams and 4 wetlands, 30% of monitoring wells tested in shallow aquifers exceed chronic standard. (MPCA)
- 365,000 tons of road salt is applied annually in the Twin Cities (MPCA); 78% stays in the Twin Cities waters (Stefan et al. 2008).
- 81% increase in chloride at Hasting Dam 1985-2014 (MCEA St Croix Watershed Research Station)
- 70% of lakes within 500 meters of 1% impervious surfaces are at risk (Dugan, U of WI)

Who is StopOverSalting (SOS)?

StopOverSalting (SOS) is a group of concerned citizens who found common ground in their awareness of chloride pollution. They advocate for strategies that reduce over salting and maintain safe surfaces on Minnesota's roads, parking lots, and sidewalks.

For more information visit <http://www.stopoversalting.org/> or contact us at stopoversalting@gmail.com.