

## CYPRESS COUNTY POLICY

**TITLE:** *Road Salt Management*      **POLICY NO.:** *R 16*  
**AUTHORITY:** *Resolution 2005/48*      **DATE:** *March 1, 2005*  
**REVISED:**      **DATE:**

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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Cypress County is committed to efficient and safe winter maintenance of roads under its direction and control. To improve road safety, increase protection of the environment and reduce potential liability from damages by road salts the County uses road salts only when absolutely necessary. Plowing and the application of straight sand is the preferred method of snow and ice removal.

### **AUTHORITY**

Environment Canada: Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts.

### **ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

The County is a rural municipality located in the southeast corner of the Province of Alberta and is responsible for the year round maintenance of all rural roads within the County. The rural road network consists of the following:

1. Approximately 200 kilometres of hard surfaced roads. None of these hard surfaced roads are Primary Highways or cross over or run adjacent or near rivers, however, they do cross over about 10 intermittent watercourses that flow mainly during times of spring run-off.
2. Winters are not normally very severe although changes in temperature can vary rapidly. The average annual snowfall is about 30 centimetres. Rapid fluctuations in temperatures often result in freezing rain and icy road conditions.
3. The County uses approximately 500 tonnes per year of Sodium Chloride as a de-icing product.
4. The County Public Works Supervisor, or his designate, is responsible for administering this policy.

## **POLICIES, ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES**

Road salts shall be managed, controlled and administered in accordance with the following basic guidelines and procedures:

1. Road salt is not used in temperatures below -15 degrees Celsius.
2. When the use of salt is required, road salt is mixed with sand at an average rate of 25% salt to 75% sand and applied with a spreader mounted truck.
3. To eliminate the need to pre-mix road salts with sand and prevent materials from being washed into environmentally sensitive areas, road salt and sand must be stored indoors in separate facilities complete with run-off containment.
4. The County will monitor and report the use of road salts for winter road maintenance as required by Environment Canada.
5. All winter road maintenance equipment shall be maintained in accordance with the County's vehicle maintenance safety and inspection program.
6. Operators of winter maintenance equipment will be trained in the safe use of the equipment and salt management practices.
7. In an effort to better control and manage the use of road salts, the County will consider new and innovative road salt application methods, systems and equipment that improve the winter maintenance of roads and protect the environment.