

“Sneak Peek”
**APWA Winter Maintenance Operator
Certificate Program**

Agenda

- History – why we developed it and who we developed it for
- Content – About the workshop and what we cover
- Why a test?
- Success – How we deliver it and how well it has done
- Revisions – Keeping it current
- Why you should attend

History

- Developed it in 2017 after a request for a separate workshop
- First session in British Columbia in October 2018
- Decision to make this a shorter course



History

- Give Operators a Basic Understanding of Winter Operations
- Increase Operators Understanding of Winter Weather
- A Better Understanding of Winter Materials and How they Work
- What Operators Need to Know About Equipment and its Upkeep
- Enhance Communications with Fleet and Operations
- Operators and Operations – What You Need to Consider

Workshop Segments

0. Introduction

1. Weather

2. Materials

3. Equipment

4. Operations

5. Wrap up



History

Weather Section

- Knowledge
 - Understanding basic road weather
- Reporting
 - Able to communicate the conditions you observe
- Tools
 - Using weather tools on the road

Road Weather Basics



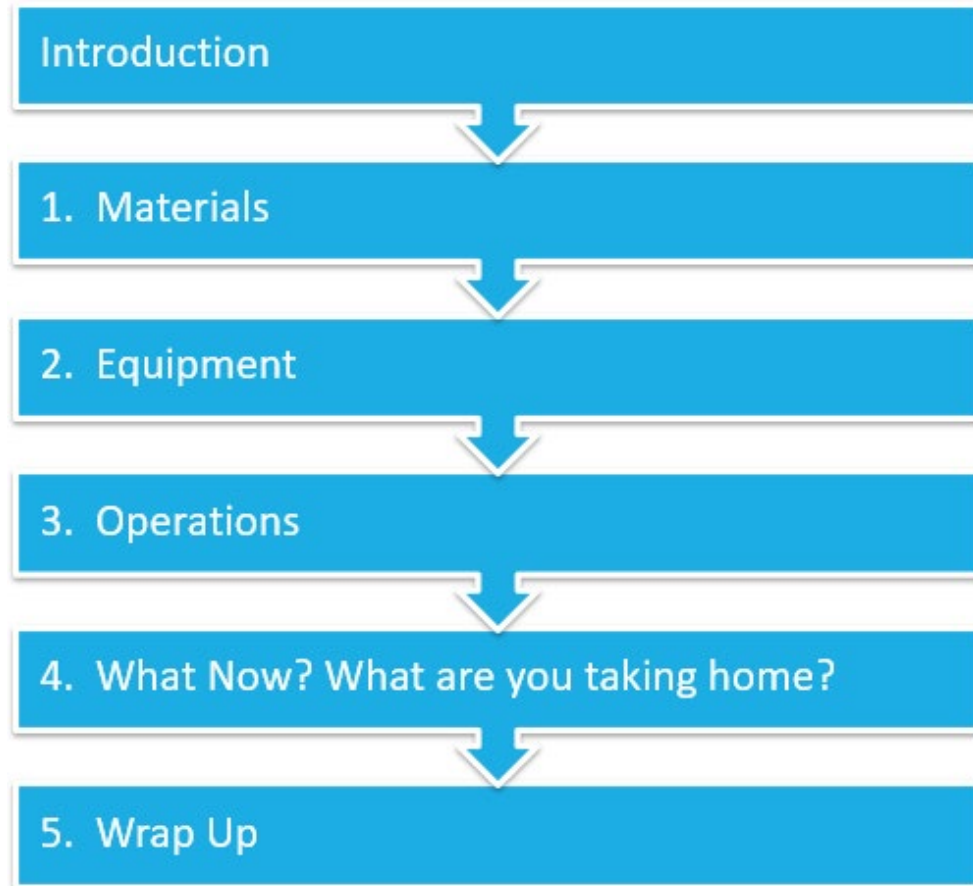
History

- Only had the weather section 2 years
- We were not staying in our 4-hour time constraint
- Incorporated a few of the key points in the operations section



Content

- Still a four-hour course
- Incorporated videos
- Geared to those in the plows
- In 2022 – added a test



Content

Materials

- How does salt work?
- When should you use it and when should you not use it?
- Why are we using liquids, and what are the benefits and shortcomings of using liquids?
- What are the best practices for salt and liquid application?

Equipment

- Apply procedures for pre- and post-trip inspections and tools to help complete the process.
- Evaluate equipment purchase decisions and fitting agency needs.
- Explain how to properly calibrate snow and ice equipment.
- Explain the importance of proper maintenance, cleaning, and inspection of equipment.
- Discuss present and future equipment options to consider.

Content

Operations

- Discuss Snow Policies and level of service.
- Differentiate between plowing techniques.
- Identify methods for training the new operator.
- Apply essential concepts of communicating and documenting your operations.
- Discuss technology that impacts operations.

Wrap up & What Now

Test – complete the test

What Now?

Discussion Time—ONE THING.....

(What're one or two things that you learned in this training or what practice would you like to implement in your agency toolbox?)

Wrap Up & Questions

Why a Test for Operators?

- In 2022 we added a test
- Only 6 questions
- In order to get a certificate and PDH a test was needed



Winter Maintenance Operator Certificate	Cranbrook 2024
Name:	_____
Agency/ Company:	_____
Street Address:	_____
City, State, Zip	_____
Email:	_____
<u>SECTION 1 - MATERIALS</u>	
1) In Winter Maintenance we use materials to prevent or break the bond between the snow and the pavement.	
a) True	
b) False	
2) When we apply materials to the road from our truck, those materials have no impact on the environment.	
a) True	
b) False	
<u>SECTION 2 - EQUIPMENT</u>	
3) Calibration is done:	
a) When the vehicle is new.	
b) At least once a year.	
c) After hydraulic repairs.	
d) <u>All</u> of the above.	
4) Pre-trip inspections are only done as necessary.	
a) True	
b) False	
<u>SECTION 3 - OPERATIONS</u>	
5) Level of Service is the basis for all winter operations.	
a) True	
b) False	
6) Operator training is only required after an accident.	
a) True	
b) False	

Success and Delivery

- All our workshops are done by committee members and volunteers.
- All have been part of the production or review of the program
- All are the highest professionals and experts in the subjects



Michigan Winter Operations Conference



Program success

- Both small and large workshops.
- Over 5000 have gone through the Operators workshop by the end of 2024. Combined with the Supervisors we are over 11K and perhaps closer to 12 K
- We are doing 11 or 12 workshops/year. Many want both programs and multiple locations.
- Operators has the highest attendance record with 747 in a virtual workshop during covid



Keeping it current

- Each spring we meet to update the programs
- We edit the content and work to have the most current programs and practices.
- We edit and update pictures and videos
- We make it a point to empathize best practices and sustainable solutions



Why should you attend

- It's a fantastic program.
- Many say its bee the best training they have ever been in.
- You will come away with new ideas for your agency
- You are taught by the best and we have fun delivering the program



Thank You

Questions