

Saturday, January 08, 2011, Noon

Good Afternoon --

Township snow crews are in the process of responding to this moderate snow event. Initially, Township crews engaged in salting operations on major and primary roads soon after the start of the snowfall. Once snow depths were sufficient, plows were lowered and plowing commenced.

As of noon, roads were snow covered in Barnegat but very passable. Some of the Township's major roads still had some blacktop showing as a result of an aggressive salting effort. No major traffic incidents to report. Traffic was moving at reduced speeds. Most county and state roads were also snow covered and speed reductions were in place on major highways.

The Township has 18 pieces of equipment responding to the event. This reflects a measure and appropriate response to this moderate winter weather event. At the height of the blizzard, the Township had 28 pieces of equipment on the road. This event does not require such a drastic response. The Township is managing the event well with this level of resource allocation.

Snow will continue into the afternoon and taper off during the evening. Snowfall amounts of 4-8 inches are expected. This will require Township crews to work through the night in order to properly maintain Township roads and facilities.

Public advisories have been issued by the Township by using the Nixle system. Will continue as conditions warrant.

The key to maintaining the roads after the snow stops will be salting. It appears temperatures will not get above freezing today and will be well below freezing tonight. Roadway icing will be a great concern and the Township will have to continue with the an aggressive salting effort.

Current weather forecast are pointing to a major winter event on Tuesday. We will be in a better position on Sunday to assess the potential of the storm, but it is starting to shape up that the Township will be committed to snow operations for the foreseeable future. A quick recovery will have to be realized on Monday in order to be prepared for any winter weather contingency on Tuesday.