

Thursday, January 27, 2011 - 9:00 AM

Overnight, Barnegat Township received anywhere from 7-10 inches of snow with the heavier amounts in the western part of the Township. In addition to the snow, there is a considerable layer of ice under the snow which adds to the challenge of clearing the roads. As of 9:00am this morning, all roads in Barnegat were plowed and are very passable, but many remained snow covered and icy.

Currently, Township snow crews are working on improving road conditions. This includes plowing curb to curb where possible, widening and clearing intersections and applying salt to major, primary and secondary roads. With the sun out and temperatures above freezing, the application of salt will be needed in order to burn off the significant snow and ice accumulation presently on the roads. Also, Township salt trucks will coordinate with Board of Education personnel to assist with clearing and salting school property. Further, the Township will start clearing sidewalks and paths used by students in the Safe Routes to School program later this morning.

Township snow crews stayed until 4:30 yesterday and then reported back to work last night between 9-10pm. We are rotating meal breaks and rest periods in an attempt to keep staff fresh while keeping equipment on the road. The Township placed 21 pieces of equipment on the road last night. Overall, the fleet is in good shape and we have only experienced minor mechanical issues. Right now, it is anticipated that we will work until 4pm today with the snow operation. A limited crew will be available during the overnight hours to respond to any icing situations. The Township will also bring in a limited crew early Friday morning (around 5am) to prepare the major and primary roads for the morning rush along with salting the schools. It will be well below freezing tonight so icing of roads will be a concern.

Two (2) minor snow events are possible Friday and Saturday, each with potential snowfall of up to an inch. There is also a chance of another coastal storm impacting the area Monday night and Tuesday. At this time, we seem to be in an active weather pattern that is bringing the region below normal temperatures and numerous winter weather events. Regardless, the Township is responding and meeting the challenge from Mother Nature.

Dave