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ORANGETOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Wins National Safe and Sustainable Snow Fighting Award

The Orangetown Highway Department has won the annual Safe and Sustainable Snow Fighting award from the Salt Institute for excellence in environmental consciousness and effective management in the storage of winter road salt for the 23rd time.

Clear winter roads protect lives and commerce. Every winter, more than 116,000 Americans are injured and over 1,300 killed as a result of pavement that is snow, slush or ice covered, according to the federal government. But a study of highways in Snow Belt states showed that road salt reduces crashes by 88 percent.

When the direct and indirect impact of road shutdowns on the broader economy is factored in, road salt becomes even more valuable. A one-day major snowstorm can cost a state \$300-\$700 million in direct and indirect costs, lost commerce and productivity. In fact, deicing pays for itself within the first 25 minutes after the salt is spread—making proper salt storage and timely deicing a smart investment.

Wow 23 years!

It is gratifying to have this department's ongoing efforts to protect the safety of our residents while providing sustainable and environmentally conscious snow and ice control recognized by the Salt Institute. This is the 23rd time the Orangetown Highway Department has received this annual award and I want to thank all our hard working & dedicated Highway Department members for their continued commitment to excellence!

- Jim Dean, Orangetown Highway Department Superintendent

HAMLETS: PEARL RIVER · BLAUVELT · ORANGETOWN · TAPPAN · SPARKILL · PALISADES · UPPER GRANDVIEW



CLEAN STREETS = CLEAN STREAMS

“Each winter snow fighters take incredible risks on icy roads, working long shifts to clear our roads of snow and ice and make them safe. They prioritize both public safety and the environment by effective practices that utilize just the right amount of salt at the right place and at the right time. The Safe and Sustainable Snow Fighting Award represents the highest acclaim for public safety and the environment. Recipients must meet or exceed nearly 70 different criteria covering storage, equipment, safety, environmental protection, and service.” said Salt Institute President Lori Roman.

About 26 million tons of deicing salt is applied to roadways in the U.S. last year according to the U.S. Geological Survey and another six million tons are spread in Canada. Having enough road salt on hand before storms hit requires advance planning and facilities that provide safe and efficient storage. Winners must also display proper maintenance and good housekeeping practices.

Only a handful of local agencies in the U.S. and Canada received this recognition. A complete list by state is available from the Salt Institute.

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