

Winter maintenance film transcript

Mark Readman, Highways Services Manager: "For winter maintenance action we meet during the week on a daily basis.

"We meet at 12 o'clock and review the latest forecast through the current system. We discuss the weather forecast for the evening and the following morning and that decision is made at 12 o'clock."

John Reed, Head of Technical Services: "We've got 37 power gritters which are your larger type of gritter and we also have 33 trailer gritters and also 5 snow blowers.

"We have 3,700km of roads in County Durham. We have 38 routes and we plan that each route should be completed within 2 and a half hours.

"If there's very heavy snowfall we have to concentrate our resources on a smaller network, what we call our snow routes, and once those are clear we then revert back to our priority network."

Gary Lawson, Highways Operative: "I'm a gritter driver for Durham County Council. I'm part of a 3 man team for each route. It's on a rota basis, mornings, nights, standby, pretty much 24 hour cover.

"We like to pre-salt which is preventative gritting. That prevents the ice from bonding to the road surface. We like to get it on before it actually happens.

"Very wet areas, obviously the salt will wash off shortly after we've applied it so in extreme conditions you have to drive very carefully."

John Reed: "We have 42,000 tonnes and we store our salt at 7 depots countywide.

"We provide 2,300 salt bins and also we stock them on demand so if they run out customers can phone our customer services team to get them refilled.

"We treat footpaths in key locations and we treat them following heavy snowfall.

"We will always advise people to keep in touch with local weather forecasts and to plan their route accordingly and also consider if it is a severe weather forecast whether they really need to travel. And if you do need to travel to make sure you're fully prepared, the car is fully serviced and prepared and they have appropriate supplies with them. And also of course when you're out there driving to drive very carefully to the prevailing conditions."