



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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**Montcalm County Road Commission de-icing program
a win-win for motorists and the environment**

LANSING, MI – For the last 14 years, the Montcalm County Road Commission (MCRC), located about 50 miles northeast of Grand Rapids, has been conducting a leading-edge, de-icing program in partnership with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) that uses liquid brine instead of rock salt to treat road surfaces *before* a winter storm occurs to inhibit ice and snow accumulation.

Mark Christensen, MCRC’s superintendent-manager, says confidently that the brine-only experiment has led to environmentally friendly, innovative practices.

“The best way to describe it is that [brine] costs slightly more per lane mile, maybe 10-15%, but you’re going to use about 40% less pounds of salt in total,” Christensen said. “And that’s while providing a level of service where most residents don’t know you’re doing anything different.”

Counties from Oakland to Cheboygan have come to look at MCRC’s equipment and learn more about the process, Christensen noted. “Montcalm has opened its doors and welcomes everyone to visit and learn about the process,” he said.

For more on Montcalm’s de-icing program, read the fall issue of *Crossroads* magazine, the quarterly journal of the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan, which can be viewed digitally or downloaded at micountyroads.org/Crossroads.

The 83 members of the County Road Association of Michigan represent the unified voice for a safe and efficient county transportation infrastructure system in Michigan, including appropriate stewardship of the public’s right-of-way in rural and urban Michigan. Collectively, Michigan’s county road agencies manage 75% of all roads in the state, including 90,000 miles of roads and 5,700 bridges. County road agencies also maintain the state’s highway system in 63 counties. Michigan has the nation’s fourth-largest local road system.

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