

**Office of the Hardin County Judge/Executive
JUDGE HARRY L. BERRY**

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Hardin County successfully weathered the four major snowstorms of the winter.

Hardin County Judge/Executive Harry L. Berry announced the costs to date for snow removal and increased ambulance coverage during the four winter snowstorms to be \$222,000. Judge Berry also praised the efforts of county employees who worked long and difficult hours to make roads passable and emergency services available to the citizens of Hardin County.

So far this winter Hardin County has experienced four significant snowfalls, January 7-10, January 30-31, February 9-11, and February 15-17. The overall cost to Hardin County Government has been approximately \$222,000.00. The costs include salt, fuel, overtime and equipment repair.

When snow falls, the Hardin County Road Department employees go to two 10 hour shifts in their efforts to salt and plow the 572 miles of county roads. Each snowfall is unique in its depth, the prevailing temperature, and the amount of wind which causes snow drifts. In cases where snow drifts are severe, the area of the drift may need to be plowed three or more times.

The costs for plowing and salting each mile of road has been fairly consistent this winter. Our average is about \$85 per mile, with a high of \$92 per mile to a low of \$69 per mile. From the time work begins by the Road Department, salting the entire 572 miles of roads takes about 36 hours. If the roads need plowing, the time for plowing and salting takes about 48 hours. Obviously, if snow continues to fall while the roads are being plowed and salted, a second pass over the roads is normally made. Snow drifts can cause a third or even a fourth pass to be made in the area of the snow drifts.

Hardin County's snow clearing plan calls for the county to be divided into five sections. At least two trucks are assigned to each section. Each truck is manned by two crews, each working ten

hour shifts. The trucks are working on the roads twenty of the twenty-four hours each day. At one time the trucks ran twenty-four hours a day, but the fatigue factor for the last two hours of the shift proved to be severe, and the ten hour shifts are more efficient and the roads are cleared as quickly as with the older twelve hour shifts.

In each section, road clearing is prioritized. The "through" roads are given top priority, and short dead-end roads and subdivision streets are given the lowest priority.

This winter the employees of the Hardin County Road Department have received numerous accolades for the work they have accomplished. A spreadsheet is attached showing the costs for fuel, overtime, salt and equipment repair for each snowstorm this winter.

Plowing snow covered roads takes its toll on vehicles designed to carry loads rather than to push loads, such as snow. When salting and plowing roads, the trucks are carrying a load of salt being spread as well as pushing the weight of the snow being cleared. This double burden has resulted so far this winter in the replacement of two truck differentials and the replacement or rebuilding of three clutches. The cost of the equipment repair is estimated at \$6,800.

When questioned about the efforts and cost of clearing roads, Road Department Supervisor Danny Allen said, "It is necessary to give the efforts to maintain County roads in a drivable condition at whatever the costs." Allen also said, "I wish to thank all the employees of the Road Department for their efforts during the snowstorm."

When snow falls, the Road Department is not the only county department mobilized. The Emergency Medical Service normally has five ambulances on duty around the clock and two more during the day shift, for a total of seven ambulances ready for duty. Two ambulances are stationed at Radcliff, four at Elizabethtown, and one in Sonora. Also, there are two standby units at Radcliff, one at Sonora, and four at the Elizabethtown station, for a total of seven standby ambulances. When the snow falls, these standby ambulances are put into service. How many are used depends on the severity of the snowfall.

During the past snowfall, five standby ambulances were staffed and deployed throughout the county. One each was sent to West Point, Rineyville Food Mart, the I-65 and US 62 interchange, the intersection of highways 86 and 920, and to Stephensburg. This deployment gave the coverage necessary to respond quickly to any section of the county, even over slick and/or snow covered roads.

The overtime cost for staffing the five standby ambulances amounted to \$6,500 during the most recent snowstorm. The four snowstorms this winter have resulted in total EMS overtime costs of about \$21,000.

Ira Dyer, Deputy Director of EMS, praise the employees who worked many overtime hours and traveled roads in less than ideal conditions, in order to provide citizens of Hardin County with needed emergency care. When questioned, Dyer said, "We certainly have a dedicated group of

employees in the EMS Department and I wish to thank them all for their efforts during the bad weather.”

When the snow falls, employees of the Road Department and the EMS Department begin to mobilize to care for the needs of the citizens of Hardin County. So far, this winter providing services has cost the county \$201,000 to clear roads and \$21,000 to provide increased ambulance service. These are just two of the many services provided by the Hardin County Government, throughout the year.

Judge Berry praised all county employees who gave the extra effort to make the county a safe place to live during unfavorable conditions. He said, “I am very proud of all county employees for the effort they gave during the winter storms. The Road Department employees worked long hours under very difficult conditions, as did the EMS Department employees to keep us all safe. I also want to thank the employees of E-911 whose work load dramatically increased, and the Animal Control Officers who were out rescuing animals from harsh weather.”

Judge Berry went on to say, “During my tenure as Judge/Executive, I have witnessed the employees of county government rise to the occasion to handle whatever disaster or hardship faced us. I am very proud of our employees and I wish to thank each and every one of them for giving that extra effort during these winter storms.”

ROAD DEPT COSTS FOR SNOW REMOVAL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>	<u>FUEL</u>	<u>SALT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$/PER MILE</u>	<u>TONS OF SALT</u>
1/7,8,9,10	\$9,819.00	\$4,388.00	\$38,376.00	\$52,583.00	\$91.92	600.00
1/30,31	\$9,053.00	\$2,599.00	\$39,207.00	\$50,859.00	\$88.91	613.00
2/9,10,11	\$3,633.00	\$4,427.00	\$43,237.00	\$51,297.00	\$89.68	676.00
2/15,16,17	\$2,061.00	\$2,949.00	\$34,358.00	\$39,368.00	\$68.92	540.00
TOTAL	\$24,566.00	\$14,363.00	\$155,178.00	\$194,107.00	\$84.85	2,429.00

EQUIPMENT REPAIR COST FOR SNOW REMOVAL

2 Differential replacements

1 Clutch replacement

2 Clutch repairs

Total Cost \$6,850

EMS OVERTIME

Date	Cost
1/7,8,9,10	\$6,500
1/30,31	\$1,500
2/9,10,11	\$6,500
2/15,16,17	\$6,500
TOTAL	\$21,000