

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SNOWFIGHTERS



2026 CONFERENCE

The Centennial Hotel | Spokane, WA

May 12-13

Highlights

Welcome & Opening, Tuesday 8:10am

Keynote Address, Tuesday 8:30am

Happy Hour Reception, Tuesday 4:30pm

GOLD SPONSORS





TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday, May 11th		
8:00AM	APWA WINTER MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS TRAINING <i>Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Program</i>	Skyline Ballroom
Tuesday, May 12th		
7:00AM	BUFFET BREAKFAST <i>Sponsored by: AG Enterprise Supply</i>	Riverfront D
8:10AM	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS	Riverfront BC
8:30AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS • AI in Winter Operations: Hype or Help	Riverfront BC
9:30AM	BREAK - VISIT THE EXHIBITORS	Exhibit Area
10:00AM	SESSIONS • Winter Operations Training - Panel Discussion • Responding to a Storm Alaska Style • Dynamic Spreading - Dispensing Material Based on Real Time Data	Riverfront BC Skyline Riverfront A
	BUFFET LUNCH <i>Sponsored by: Holland Equipment</i> <i>Be sure to check out the outdoor exhibit area!</i>	Riverfront D
	SESSIONS • Equipment Training (How are you doing it?) • Winter Maintenance Performance Measures in the Northwest • Alternate Fuels for Snow Fighting	Riverfront BC Skyline Riverfront A
1:30PM	BREAK - VISIT THE EXHIBITORS	Exhibit Area
2:00PM	SESSIONS • Equipment Calibration - What's the Big Deal? • Winter Chemical Basics: It's All About the Bond • Work Zone Safety	Riverfront BC Skyline Riverfront A
	SESSIONS • Winter Maintenance Training, YouTube to Universities • Brine Manufacture Practices - Panel Discussion • Liquids Usage and Lessons Learned in Farmington Hills, MI	Riverfront BC Skyline Riverfront A
	HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION <i>Sponsored by: SWS Equipment</i> <i>Join us for happy hour. Drink tickets are in your conference badge.</i>	Outdoor Patio Dining (See Map Pg. 14)



REGISTRATION DESK

- Monday, May 11 7:30am - 9:00am, 3:00pm - 5:00pm
- Tuesday, May 12 7:00am - 4:30pm
- Wednesday, May 13 7:00am - 11:30am

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Wednesday, May 13th		
7:00AM	BREAKFAST <i>Sponsored by: The Fab Shop</i>	Riverfront D
8:00AM	SESSIONS • Liquid Deicers - Doing More with Less • Vegetation Management Practices Considerations for Snow & Ice • AVL - What It is and How We Use It at WSDOT	Riverfront BC Skyline Riverfront A
	BREAK - VISIT THE EXHIBITORS <i>Sponsored by: Pelican Chemicals</i>	Exhibit Area
	SESSIONS • Defensive Driving • Digging Deeper on Deicer - Adding Some Research to the Mix • Enhanced Visibility - NCHRP Equipment Lighting and Conspicuity Tape	Riverfront BC Skyline Riverfront A
10:40AM	SESSIONS • Using a Simulator for Training • Charting Our Routes on Complete Streets and Snowplow Operations • Qualified Product List Update	Riverfront BC Skyline Riverfront A
11:50AM	CLOSING	Riverfront BC

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: USING AI IN WINTER OPERATIONS: HYPE OR HAPPENING?

Tuesday, May 12 | 8:30am - 9:30am | Riverfront BC

There is a lot of buzz about AI lately, and depending on who you listen to it is either the best thing since sliced bread, or the approach of the apocalypse. When it comes to winter operations, which is it really? In this talk Wilf will focus in on how AI has been used in winter operations, with various examples from around the world. We will also use AI to develop answers to some typical questions faced in winter operations chosen from the audience. Come and learn if AI can help you, and why there may be some substance (or maybe not...) behind all that hype!



Wilf Nixon, Director of Public Works, City of Pella, IA
Nixon is the Director of Public Works for the City of Pella, Iowa. He has spent nearly 30 years in higher education teaching and conducting research on topics related to public works and is still an Emeritus Professor at the University of Iowa.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



GOLD



LTI, Inc. **BOOTH 15**
LTI, Inc.'s salt operation supports winter road safety across the Pacific Northwest by reliably transporting and delivering bulk road salt to public agencies and municipalities. Leveraging specialized equipment, experienced drivers, and coordinated logistics, LTI ensures timely supply during peak demand, helping keep highways, city streets, and communities safe.



TEC Equipment, Inc. **BOOTH 14 & OUTSIDE**
Mack/Volvo Truck dealership



Salt Distributors, Inc. **BOOTH 7**
SDI provides road salt, highway deicing chemicals, and logistics solutions for the western United States. They supply products to everyone from State Road districts to parking lot contractors.

SILVER



EnviroTech Services **BOOTH 26**
At EnviroTech Services, our mission is to lead our industry by consistently delivering exceptional service and demonstrating unwavering commitment to addressing our customers' challenges. We strive to inspire excellence and drive progress through our environmentally responsible, fit-for-purpose products, ensuring that each solution we deliver creates a meaningful impact.



FORCE America, Inc. **BOOTH 9**
FORCE America serves both on- and off-road vehicles with hydraulic power, control systems and industry knowledge. With an array of products and expertise, we are your single-source for the power you need to do your work more efficiently and effectively.

BRONZE



Tiger Calcium Inc.
One of North America's largest calcium chloride producers. Also providing best in class products on the Qualified Product List.



THANK YOU SPONSORS



AG Enterprise Supply, Inc **BOOTH 17 & OUTSIDE**
Specializes in Farming, Soil Health, Precision Agronomy, and Custom Manufacturing.



Holland Equipment **BOOTH 22**
Holland Equipment is a leader in snow plow manufacturing and equipment sales throughout the region. The company serves municipal, government, and construction customers with high-quality products in both snow removal and construction equipment along with reliable service.



Kueper, NA **BOOTH 21**
For over 50 years the Kueper name has been synonymous with the highest quality, advanced snowplow cutting edges. Kueper was the first to embed special wear components into rubber plow blades. Today we offer the best in flexible carbide plow blades, rubber ceramic plow blades and other specialty wear items.



Pelican Chemicals **BOOTH 23**
Established in 1993, Pelican Chemicals is a national manufacturer and distributor of both specialty and commodity bulk chemicals. The Headwaters® salt brine additives and non-chloride deicers, by Pelican Chemicals are clean, bio-based, biodegradable, effective at incredibly low addition rates, and Clear Roads Qualified Product List (QPL) listed.



Precise MRM **BOOTH 10**
PreCise® MRM collects the information you need – from location and speed to the activity of your vehicles' accessories to additional detailed data vital to your day-to-day business. And we deliver that data in a manner that supports your schedule. Thanks to our advanced telematics, your data is there when you need it, whether to track current vehicle location or at the end of the day to review a complete fleet summary.



Safe Salt Supply

BOOTH 5

Since 1958, Safe Salt Supply has delivered premium all-natural salts—from solar-harvested Great Salt Lake sodium chloride to industrial and road salt. With transparent pricing and expansive North American reach, we prioritize quality, integrity and customer partnership.



SWS Equipment

BOOTH 18

SWS provides sales, service, and parts for commercial snow blowers.



The Fab Shop

BOOTH 20

Since the doors opened the Summer of 1999, The Fab shop has had one goal in mind. Deliver the highest quality, custom built, occupation-oriented truck bodies to its customers in the industry. Like a well fitted suit, our trucks are tailor made to your specifications. We strive to uphold the highest level of quality standards with products proven to work as hard, and last as long as you do.



Vaisala Inc

BOOTH 19

Vaisala's weather and environmental technologies enable unrivaled road network awareness — keeping roadways safe and efficient. Our solutions are informed by our 90 years of innovating and have made us the gold standard for precision and reliability. Our holistic approach provides customers with end-to-end simplicity, valuable partnership, and a comprehensive portfolio of solutions that are constantly evolving.

Tuesday, May 12 | 10:00am - 11:00am

Winter Operations Training - Panel Discussion

Panel: Mike Stowell, Idaho TD

Marcus Zimmerman, C.M., Alaska DOT

Daryl Blumberg, Washington DOT

Track: Training | Riverfront Ballroom BC

Demonstrate how a good plan identifies your goals and provides the tools you need to achieve them. In this panel we'll discuss the combination of having a Snow and Ice Plan, identifying treatment level goals and equipment related training.

Responding to a Storm Alaska Style

Speaker: Daniel Schacher, Alaska DOT

Track: Best Practices | Skyline Ballroom

Alaska has 9 climate zones ranging from maritime to arctic. Each storm event is different based on origin, direction, geographic location, storm track, and time of year. We will discuss differing tactics Alaska DOT & PF implement to respond to many varied extreme events.

Dynamic Spreading - Dispensing Material Based on Real Time Data

Speakers: Rose Parisi & Mark Devrie, Vaisala Inc.

Track: Technology | Riverfront Ballroom A

Dynamic spreading is a new and innovative approach for winter road safety. The system uses vehicle-mounted sensors that integrates into the computerized dispensing system, and material application is adjusted in real time based on road conditions. This not only enhances efficiency but also reduces environmental impact. Join us to explore this exciting development!



Tuesday, May 12 | 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Equipment Training (How are you doing it?)

Speakers: Rodney Jarrels, Washington DOT
Mike Stowell, Idaho TD

Track: Training | Riverfront Ballroom BC

An effective equipment training is crucial for ensuring workplace safety by preventing accidents and injuries, and boosting employee productivity. It empowers the employees with skills and knowledge to operate machinery correctly, understand and mitigate for hazards, and follow safety protocols.

Winter Maintenance Performance Measures in the Northwest

Speakers: James Morin, Washington DOT
Ty Winther Idaho TD

Track: Best Practices | Skyline Ballroom

Representatives from the Idaho, Washington, and Oregon Departments of Transportation will share how each state approaches winter maintenance performance, and how each measure it. The discussion will highlight methods used to track and evaluate winter operations, including mobility, safety, and cost-effectiveness metrics. Panelists will compare strategies, share lessons learned, and explore opportunities for improving winter service delivery across the region.

Alternatives Fuels for Snow Fighting

Speaker: Steve Jenkins, Washington DOT

Track: Technology | Riverfront Ballroom A

A discussion about the potential of alternative fuels and Zero Emissions Vehicles for snow fighting.



Tuesday, May 12 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Equipment Calibration - What's the Big Deal?

Speaker: Daryl Blumberg, Washington DOT
Track: Training | Riverfront Ballroom BC

The positive effects of accurate calibration can touch every corner of a winter maintenance program. Where does it begin and does it ever end?

Winter Chemical Basics: It's All About the Bond

Speaker: Wilf Nixon, City of Pella, IA

Track: Best Practices | Skyline Ballroom

Winter chemicals aren't magic ice-melters—they're tools to break the grip between ice and pavement. This session gets down to basics: how chemicals really work, why placement matters, and what you can do to make every load count.

Work Zone Safety

Speakers: Ty Winther, Idaho TD
James Morin, Washington DOT

Track: Technology | Riverfront Ballroom A

Share Idaho and WA state efforts to improve work zone safety through the implementation of Work Zone Safety Taskforce and incorporation of technology such as Project Connect, HAAS alert and other safety alert systems designed to reduce risks and improve communications in active work zones.



Tuesday, May 12 | 3:20pm - 4:20pm

Winter Maintenance Training, YouTube to Universities

Speaker: Rick Nelson, Retired, DOT Certified Instructor,
National Highway Institute

Track: Training | Riverfront Ballroom BC

There are many resources for training and education buried out there in the nooks and crannies of the internet and otherwise hidden from view. We will discuss many of the resources available ranging from skill improvement through education on winter maintenance principles.

Brine Manufacture Practices - Panel Discussion

Panel: Jason Ryan, Washington DOT

Ty Winther, Idaho TD

Marcus Zimmerman, C.M., Alaska DOT

Chad Pearson, Montana DOT

Track: Best Practices | Skyline Ballroom

Learn from representatives across the west about equipment used, cost, material types, challenges and lessons learned as well as considerations for setup (e.g., proximity to water source, electricity, tanks, etc.) and transportation.

Liquid Usage & Lessons Learned in Farmington Hills, MI

Speaker: Bryan Pickworth, City of Farmington Hills, MI-DPW

Track: Technology | Riverfront Ballroom A

Liquids- a tool and lessons learned in Farmington Hills, MI Farmington Hills-MI has used liquids since the late 1980's. In over the last 30 years our agency has learned a lot from trials and others. Let us share some of the materials, training and equipment that we have utilized to battle winter events.



Wednesday, May 13 | 8:00am - 9:00am

Liquid Deicers - Doing More with Less

Panel: Steven R. Clark, Ph.D. & Mike Coffey, EnviroTech Services

Track: Training | Riverfront Ballroom BC

Why are sodium, calcium, and magnesium chlorides the go to liquid chemicals for roadway anti-icing and deicing? Starting at the molecular level and progressing to product application, you will learn how to effectively and efficiently utilize the "Big Three" chlorides as a winter maintenance best practice.

Clear Roads Research: Benefits of Solar Radiation for Winter Road Conditions & Performance of Liquid vs. Solid Deicers

Speaker: Ty Winther, Idaho TD

James Morin, Washington DOT

Patti Caswell, Oregon DOT

Track: Best Practices | Skyline Ballroom

Leaders from the Idaho, Washington, and Oregon DOT's will discuss how vegetation management intersects with snow and ice control. Panelists will explore considerations such as roadside vegetation impacts on drifting snow, shade and ice formation, visibility, and long-term maintenance strategies. The session will highlight state-specific practices, challenges, and innovative approaches that balance safety, efficiency, and environmental stewardship in winter operations.

AVL - What it is and How We Use it at WSDOT

Speakers: Anastasiya Grigoryev & Doug Gow, Washington DOT

Track: Technology | Riverfront Ballroom A

Understanding how AVL supports real-time tracking of maintenance vehicles, and interpreting vehicle telemetry data to improve efficiency and safety.



Wednesday, May 13 | 9:20am - 10:20am

Defensive Driving

Panel: Mark J. Bergman, Washington DOT
Travis Smith, Idaho TD

Track: Training | Riverfront Ballroom BC

Defensive driving focuses on improving drivers' ability to manage risk while increasing your culture of safety. These programs emphasize techniques such as Aim High in Your Steering, Getting the Big Picture, Keeping Your Eyes Moving, Leaving Yourself an Out and Make Sure Other See You. This type of training has shown not only to reduce vehicle incidents but to build safer, lifelong habits that will benefit the employee at home and while at work. From operating a pool car to a snowplow, good habits reinforce positive behavior from pre-tripping to crash avoidance.

Digging Deeper on Deicer – Adding Some Research to Mix

Speaker: Laura Fay, Montana State University

Track: Best Practices | Skyline Ballroom

We know that solid and liquid deicers work, but what about the other stuff - the costs, benefits, and impacts? We may even understand this for rock salt and salt brine, but what changes when you start blending? This talk will summarize Clear Roads research that helps to answer these questions and provides some resources for you take home with you.

Enhanced Visibility - NCHRP Equipment Lighting & Conspicuity Tape

Speakers: Steve Felix, Montana DOT

Kelley Dick, Idaho TD

Ernie Sims, Washington DOT

Track: Technology | Riverfront Ballroom A

Discussion about the AASHTO lighting and conspicuity tape standards.



Wednesday, May 13 | 10:40am - 11:40am

Using a Simulator for Training

Panel: Jeremy Ward, Montana DOT

Track: Training | Riverfront Ballroom BC

The MDT simulator has two main programs- Plow truck operation, including Tow Plows with multiple modules for varying degrees of training and skill and Heavy Equipment with modules for Loaders, Excavators and Motor Patrols.

Charting Our Routes on Complete Streets & Snowplow Operations

Speaker: Ursula Sandstrom, Washington DOT

Clint Harris, City of Spokane, WA

Track: Best Practices | Skyline Ballroom

Both WSDOT and City of Spokane have complete streets requirements, with some significant differences in scope. How to plan, design, build, operate and maintain a transportation system that enables comfortable and convenient access for all people, and includes specific requirements for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure differs per organization. Join us to answer some questions about what complete streets implementation means for snowplow operations, fleets, and infrastructure design especially in regards to roadway allocations and building a safe system for both staff and community members.

Qualified Products List Update

Speaker: Patti Caswell, Oregon DOT

Track: Technology | Riverfront Ballroom A

Overview of the Clear Roads Qualified Products List for deicing products. Review of information available online and any updates to the specifications document or product categories.



Accubrine, LLC.	13
Advanced Traffic Contro	32
Alamo Group Snow and Ice	4 ❄️
AG Enterprise Supply, Inc	17 ❄️
Britespan Building systems Inc	33
EnviroTech Services	26
Evolution Edges	31
FORCE America, Inc.	9
Frost Solutions	25
Geotab	12
Holland Equipment	22
Kueper, NA	21
LTI, Inc.	15
Mod-Link, LLC	11
Monroe Truck	28
Norstar Industries, Inc.	8
Onspot NA	2
Pelican Chemicals	23
Precise MRM	10
RWC Group	3 ❄️
Safe Salt Supply	5
Salt Distributers, Inc.	7
SaltWorx Inc	29
SWS Equipment	18 ❄️
TEC Equipment, Inc.	14 ❄️
The Fab Shop	20
Vaisala Inc	19
Viking Cives Midwest	24
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THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. Without you, this event that brings best practices and emerging trends would not be possible.

Special thanks go out to Washington Department of Transportation for hosting, and to the Pacific Northwest Snowfighters Conference Committee for their hard work and attention to detail producing and hosting the conference.

Patti Caswell, PNS Chair, Oregon DOT

James Morin, Washington DOT

Jim Andersen, Planning Co-Chair Washington DOT

Daryl Blumberg, Planning Co-Chair Washington DOT

Ty Winther, Idaho TD

Steve Felix, Montana DOT



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