Weekend snows pile up costs

By Suzie Rollins Singer staff writer

Snow and more snow is playing ha-oc with the Oakland County Road

voc with the Oakland County Road Commission's budget. Some 30,000 tons of salt have been dumped on Oakland County roads. That's more than two-thirds the amount normally used at this time of

ear.
But the cost problem isn't salt but

But the cost problem sort sait our skyrocketing overtime.

"The cost factor is worse than any other winter," said Dennis Pajot, public information offier for the Oakland County Road Commission. "We've had five consecutive weekends of snow storms and a lot of night work, which occuments for a lot of overtime pay."

25%

inches of anow on the ground, which is more than Oahland road crews have seen since 1972.

On the average, 102 pleess of equipment have been on the roads at any given time during the last month, up from the usual 88.

"One thing we're grateful about is that our equipment isn't breaking down. We're only suffering from normal breakdown which is 10 percent.

"We haven't replaced equipment in the past few years so we're very locky," he added.

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We haven cover 2700 miles of road crews' biggest job, and it's getting from the proposition of the propositio

wag suwers do the job like they do up north."

ROAD CREWS head for critical streets first — those with 40,000 or more vehicles a day — before the snow stops falling. They are maintaining a subdivision plowing schedule, but are not working no overtime there.

"We have over 2,700 miles of road responsibility, including 551 state trunk lines like Woodward and the freeways. This is a 900-square-mile county," Pajot said.

Melting snow, which turns to make jot said.
Melting snow, which turns to water
and salt, are sure to create potholes, all
of which may not be fixed because of
the expense. Because the road commission is spending so much money on
road crew wages, it may be forced to
cut back on spring repairs.

"We are usually able to repair potholes in the winter, but we've been unable to do that because we re so busy plowing snow," Pajot said. "We have very definitely spent a lot more money than anticipated on plowing, and if it continues, there will have to be cut-backs in the spring." THE ROAD Commission asks that residents retrain from calling its office unless they spot a serious safety haz-ard.

Thursday, February 11, 1982

when plowing driveways, residents when plowing driveways, residents whould place their snow on the lawn to the right of the driveway to minimize the chances of being plowed in. Residents may also want to put flags on mailboxes, so crews can spot them. "If there's a lot of thawing at one time, they can help by cleaning up the area around the catch basins," he said. Pajot also warned people against parking their cars in the roadways. "We call the police about any can their the road way and they've been very cooperative about getting the curved away — at the owner's expense," he said.



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