## Plowing, salting roads a \$4 million job in Oakland

Snowplowing and salting of free-ways, main roads and subdivision streets this winter by the Oakland County Road Commission is expected

control this winter by the Oakland County Road Commission is expected to be 'as usual.'

"Providing for safe travel remains our top priority, and that means snow and ice control on our heavily traveled routes in this county of one million persons will continue to come first, said Chalrman John R. Gnau Jr.

"We will continue to staff high-volume critical routes, including free-easy, at the especiation of the musting for the continue to the mouth of the country of the continue of the continue to the continue of the continu

"We will continue to staff mediumto-high volume routes, such as most
paved mile roads when adverse conditions occur and remain on them antisafe travet is assured. This generally
read to the state of the county and
the staff morning crews on
that these routes can be serviced conomically prior to rush bours, but they
also will be serviced on overtime when
necessary.

"RESPONDENTS TO a questionaire in our annual report this year rated our snow and ice control operations very highly. We believe a major reason is the efforts of the early morning — or

"third shift" — crewa attempted to service the critical and priority routes are used to be compared to the critical and priority routes are used to the third shift crews to call pelped, said Gnau.

Under a contract with the State Highway Department, the road commission maintains 181 miles of state highways, which include freeways and "I," "US" and "M" numbered routes such as Telegraph, Woodward, Lapeer Road and Highland Road.

The road commission also has 2,572 miles of its own roads and streets, including 1,101 miles of subdivision streets in townships.

"Subdivision streets will continue to

any," he said.

The road commission has never staffed or equipped to provide immediate snowand ice control on all roads and streets on the same priority.

THE ROAD commission divides its approximately 1,000 miles of paved critical and priority highways and roads into 84 "sait routes." All 91 dump trucks in the floct are equipped to both sait and plow. In heavy snow plowing conditions, the road commission also

employs its 27 road graders.
Road crew strength this winter will be greater than last winter, thanks to restoration of state-collected vehicle fuel and registration laxes that provide the basic source of road famoling. De-leing road a lit supplies will be problem, groad a lit supplies will be problem, and provider the said, "We presently have two-thirds of a normal winter's needs stockpiled. This has proven sufficient to keep ahead of the replenishment deliveries during each of the past three seasons."

IN THE "HARD" winter of 1981-82, 41 percent more salt than normal was required. Salt use during the "easy" winter of 1982-83 was about half of

The road commission stockpiles 32,000 tons of road de-leing salt under covers at its its garge locations spotted around the county: in Millord Township, Springfield Township, Orion Township, Materiord Township, Troy and Southfield.

winter snow and ice control opera-tions normally cost \$4 million, loclod-ing overhead. Portions of that cost re-quired for state highways is reim-bursed to the road commission by the Milchigan Department of Transporta-tion.







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