



NJDOT WINTER OPERATIONS

WOST Member Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHAT IS THE NJDOT WINTER OPERATIONS SUPPORT TEAM PROGRAM?

The NJDOT Winter Operations Support Team Program allows full-time and retired New Jersey State employees to enter into an agreement for a position of a snow plow/spreader truck operator or an operation's (snow) representative for NJDOT winter operations.

2. WHO MAY APPLY FOR THE WINTER OPERATIONS SUPPORT TEAM PROGRAM?

You must be a full-time or a retired NJ STATE employee to be eligible in the program.

3. HOW DO I APPLY TO BE A WINTER OPERATIONS SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER?

See the contact information at the end of these FAQ's.

4. WHEN WILL I BE NOTIFIED THAT I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM? Notifications should be completed on or before September 15th.

5. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF SNOW PLOW/SPREADER TRUCK OPERATOR?

As a snow plow/spreader truck operator, the member will operate a dump truck or related equipment for the spreading of anti-icing material or snow plowing with an 11' snow plow.

6. DOES A SNOW PLOW DRIVER/OPERATOR NEED A CDL LICENSE?

Yes. Truck Operator's will need at a minimum a CDL Class B with air brake endorsement.

7. WHAT IF THE EMPLOYEE DOES NOT HAVE A CDL LICENSE?

If there is a need for snow plow drivers/operators, regional staff will hold training for employees wishing to obtain a CDL license. The applicant is responsible for the cost related to purchase the CDL permit from MVC. The applicant must possess a valid driver's license to apply. *(Note: If there is no need in the area where the applicant wishes to be a driver/operator then CDL training will not be given)*

8. HOW LONG IS THE CDL TRAINING?

Training may run from 3-6 days.

9. WILL A TEAM MEMBER NEED TO ATTEND TRAINING FOR SNOW PLOW/SPREADER TRUCK OPERATOR AND/OR OPS (SNOW) REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS?

Yes, training is required annually and it will be a combination of online and in-person/hands-on training.



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10. HOW WILL A TEAM MEMBER REPORT THIS TRAINING ON HIS/HER TIME SHEET?

If approved by the member's agency, the employee can use whatever code their particular agency has for training. If not approved, the employee must use appropriate benefit time. Note: personal time may have to be dedicated for training sessions outside of normal work hours that the NJDOT will be scheduling. The NJDOT will not compensate members for time they may spend taking online training except when done at a NJDOT facility.

11. WHAT IS INVOLVED WITH CDL TRAINING?

There is classroom training prior to taking the written test for CDL. Once the written test is taken, and results are received that an employee passed the test, the employee will hold a permit for 3 weeks. The regional offices will then provide a vehicle for the employee to use to take the driving portion of the test. The employee is responsible to pay for the CDL license. This may be done outside of normal working hours.

12. WHAT IF I GET THE TRAINING, RECEIVE MY CDL AND THEN DECIDE I DO NOT WANT TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK?

If the member has been trained and has not completed at least one (1) year in the program, then they will be required to reimburse the department for the cost of the training which is approximately \$650 dollars (this cost may vary depending on region and training given).

13. IS THERE DRUG TESTING RELATIVE TO CDL LICENSE?

Yes, a DOT mandatory drug test must be passed prior to operating any DOT vehicle. Even though an initial drug test must be performed, the member, once assigned to a crew, will also be subject to random crew drug testing at any time.

14. WHERE IS THE DRUG TESTING HELD?

Various approved locations will be available throughout each region.

15. WHEN WILL AN EMPLOYEE BE NOTIFIED TO REPORT FOR DRUG TESTING?

The morning of or the afternoon of the day of the drug testing.

16. WHAT IF AN EMPLOYEE MISSES DRUG TESTING?

An employee will not be called to work if drug testing was not performed.



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17. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF OPERATIONS (SNOW) REPRESENTATIVE?

An Ops (Snow) Representative will be assigned to oversee/monitor a contractor(s) activity of either plowing/spreading or both. It is the responsibility of the Ops (Snow) Representative to act as an extension of the Shift Supervisor to ensure the contractor is performing the duties as described in the contract or waiver agreement. The Ops (Snow) Representative will complete all reports and required documentation at the end of each shift and submit said reports to the Shift Supervisor. A two-way radio will also be assigned to each Representative and must be on at all times during an activation for both communication and tracking purposes.

18. IS THERE TRAINING FOR OPERATIONS (SNOW) REPRESENTATIVES?

Yes, there are both online and in-person training classes and you are asked to obtain and review the contract/agreements for both snow plowing and spreading services for your understanding prior to the training.

19. IF A TEAM MEMBER HAS A STATE CAR ASSIGNED TO THEM, WILL THEY BE ABLE TO USE THE STATE CAR UNDER FOR THIS POSITION?

If the employee's direct supervisor and agency allows the vehicle's usage, then the employee may use their State assigned vehicle to perform the Ops (Snow) Representative function.

20. WHAT IF A TEAM MEMBER DOES NOT HAVE A STATE CAR ASSIGNED TO THEM?

The employee will then utilize their personal vehicle while working as an Ops (Snow) Representative and will be reimbursed mileage from NJDOT.

21. IF A MEMBER DOES NOT WISH TO USE A PERSONAL CAR, WILL THE STATE ASSIGN A CAR FOR THE OPS (SNOW) REPRESENTATIVE POSITION? No.

22. IF I AM SELECTED TO BE AN OPERATIONS (SNOW) REPRESENTATIVE DO I NEED A SAFETY LIGHT?

Yes. An amber safety light is required. See your assigned supervisor for details about obtaining a safety light.

23. WHAT ARE THE HOURS A TEAM MEMBER WILL WORK DURING A WINTER EVENT?

Members will work during their non-working hours only (except retirees). This includes holidays and weekends. However, if state offices are closed during normal business hours due to a weather event and the member is called into work to assist DOT forces, the member is expected to report to the DOT yard. The emergency rate of pay goes into effect only for the hours outside the member's regular working hours.



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24. IF I HAVE TO BE AT MY NORMAL JOB AT 0830HRS AND TO DO THAT I HAVE TO LEAVE THE NJDOT FACILITY AT 0700HRS WHEN DOES MY PAY TIME STOP?

Your pay time will stop when you leave the NJDOT facility.

25. IF A TEAM MEMBER IS CALLED TO WORK AND IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT HAPPENS?

If the unavailability is not habitual the shift supervisor will go to the next person on the list for that call-out. If unavailability has become habitual, then that member may be removed from the roster.

26. WHEN IS THE TEAM MEMBER CALLED OUT?

The Shift Supervisor will call a member as soon as he/she has been notified by their management to activate the crews and/or contractor. The member will be expected to report to duty as soon as possible or as instructed by the Shift Supervisor.

27. WHAT ARE THE WORKING HOURS FOR TEAM MEMBER?

Team members will work on either of two shift schedules, noon to midnight and midnight to noon. The shift changes every two weeks, unless forces are currently fighting a snow storm, and then there is no change until the event has been closed. The maximum number of continuous hours you will be able to work is sixteen (16) hours. A minimum of four (4) hours off is required before you may work again.

28. HOW ARE TEAM MEMBERS PAID?

Members are paid on an hourly basis. An hourly rate of pay will be established according to current contract guidelines. A member will receive a paycheck separate from their normal paycheck which will be mailed to their home address or to an address that has been supplied by the member.

29. IF THERE IS AN “EARLY QUIT” FOR STATE EMPLOYEES DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND A TEAM MEMBER’S SHIFT IS CALLED TO ASSIST THE NJDOT IN WINTER OPERATIONS, WILL THE MEMBER BE PAID THE HOURLY EMERGENCY RATE?

No. It will be treated as a normal work day until the member’s regular working hours have ended.

30. IF THERE IS AN “EMERGENCY CLOSING” FOR STATE EMPLOYEES DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND A TEAM MEMBER’S SHIFT IS CALLED TO ASSIST THE NJDOT IN WINTER OPERATIONS, WILL THE MEMBER BE PAID THE HOURLY EMERGENCY RATE?

No. It will be treated as a normal work day until the member’s regular working hours have ended.



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31. ARE TEAM MEMBERS EXPECTED TO WORK UNTIL NOON IF IT IS A NORMAL WORK DAY FOR THAT MEMBER?

Non-NJDOT Members: No, unless your agency has agreed to allow you to remain, the other agency member must advise the Shift Supervisor of what time he/she begins their normal work day so the crew supervisor can release the member in time for him/her to report to their normal work location.

NJDOT Members: Yes, NJDOT members are expected to remain active until their shift ends unless there is a greater emergent need to perform their normal function.

32. WHAT IF A TEAM MEMBER WORKS THE MIDNIGHT SHIFT ON A NORMAL WORK DAY AND IS TOO TIRED TO GO TO THEIR NORMAL WORK LOCATION?

At that point, the member must contact their immediate supervisor at their normal work location to request taking benefit time, as this is between the employee and their supervisor.

33. WILL A TEAM MEMBER BE CALLED OUT EACH AND EVERY TIME IT SNOWS IN NEW JERSEY?

Team members will be called out on an “as needed” basis, so there may be times when adverse weather conditions are affecting New Jersey but a member may NOT be called out if they are not needed.

34. HOW DOES THIS CALL OUT PROCEDURE AFFECT OPERATIONS (SNOW) REPRESENTATIVES?

Ops (Snow) Representatives will only be called out when contractors are being utilized in their designated area. If contractors are not being used during a winter event, ops (snow) representatives will not be called out.

35. WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE SNOW SEASON?

Team Members are evaluated by regional staff which will aid in the decision to bring a member back for the next winter season.

HOW DO I ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR GET AN AGREEMENT?

If you have any question or require additional information or an agreement please contact your Regional WOST Coordinator by email to: North Region: SnowVolunteers.North@dot.state.nj.us
Central Region: SnowVolunteers.Central@dot.state.nj.us
South Region: SnowVolunteers.South@dot.state.nj.us