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Press Release

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[NYC Transit](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA NYC Transit Prepares For Winter Weather

Whenever there is a forecast of cold and snowy weather, MTA New York City Transit is put on a foul weather footing, with the agency fine tuning the winter plan, and deploying employees and machines in order to keep subway and bus service operating as close to normal as possible.

Additionally, NYC Transit has created a cold weather service poster explaining how subway service may be affected in the event of a winter storm (see PDF attachment).

The Department of Subways maintains a fleet of snow and ice-busting equipment designed to keep outdoor tracks and the third rail clear of snow. The fleet includes new super-powered snow throwers, jet-powered snow-blowers, and de-icing cars.

While the subway portions of the system remain unaffected, there are nearly 380 miles of outdoor track around the system, including subway yards, and NYC Transit has heavy-duty equipment designed to move snow, melt ice and do anything else that must be done to maintain service during inclement weather. Routes, such as the Rockaway Line, the Sea Beach and the Dyre Ave. Line, are particularly vulnerable to snow and freezing weather.

During a heavy snowstorm, such as the one that hit the city in 2006, tracks on outdoor subway lines must be cleared often, the third rails kept free of ice and outdoor steps at all 468 subway stations shoveled and salted.

The Department of Buses has its own fleet of snow fighting equipment, particularly the salt-spreading trucks equipped with plows assigned to each depot. They work in conjunction with the Department of Sanitation to keep heavily traveled bus routes clear and passable.

Subway Snow Fighting Equipment

Snow Throwers (four) - Precise directional snow throwing equipment. Includes a two stage impeller and side mounted rotating brushes to throw snow up to 200 feet and can remove 3,000 tons of snow an hour. This is similar to a household snow blower, just a lot bigger.

Jet Blowers (five) - This equipment uses a jet engine to remove accumulated snow from the roadbed and deposit it a distance from the tracks so that it cannot slide back. This piece of equipment is used primarily to keep the yards clear.

De-Icer Cars (six) - Equipped with scraper shoes that scrape off ice and also uses equipment to direct a stream of deicing fluid to melt and/or prevent ice buildup on the third rail. If ice is permitted to build up, subway car power pickup equipment will not be able to draw electric current from the third rail and the train will stop.

Ballast Regulator - Uses brush/broom to evenly sweep and push up snow onto an undercab conveyer and away from the track.

Rider Cars - Heated/Insulated work cars that can be used to carry crews and equipment to snow removal work sites. These cars are equipped with ice-scraping equipment to help keep the third rail clear.

Locomotives - All Diesel Locomotives are equipped with small snow plows at both ends to assist in scraping snow and ice off the road bed and transporting the other snow removal work cars. The locomotives are fitted with scraper shoes to remove ice.