

MoDOT Minute – Jan. 12, 2010

Hi. This is Sally Oxenhandler with your MoDOT Minute.

The latest winter storm that hit the state was especially challenging for MoDOT road crews because it was accompanied by record-low temperatures that make salt less effective at melting ice and snow. That's why the department has been using an anti-icing product called Geomelt made from sugar beets to keep roads clear. Combined with salt, the beet juice freezes at a lower temperature than salt alone so it can be used in colder weather. The mixture reduces the corrosive properties of salt and improves its effectiveness. MoDOT first started using beet juice in 2006 and has since increased use statewide almost 700 percent.

An inquiry by the Federal Highway Administration has found no evidence of discrimination in MoDOT's administration of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program. You can view the full report at www.modot.org/ecr.

That's been your MoDOT Minute. Remember to check back every Tuesday for new information.