



TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

The month of January went out with a bang as the blizzard of 2022 (lets hope that's the only one) dropped 18 inches of snow on us in about 18 hours and the crew worked much longer than that to ensure the roads were safe for travel. Luckily it was fluffy snow, and the wind didn't cause as much drifting as there could have been. Also, just as luckily, we didn't suffer any breakdowns except for a couple of leaky hydraulic hoses. During the height of the storm, it was unsafe for even us to be on the roads as visibility was virtually zero, so we took that opportunity to rest. Of course, once the snow ends our job is far from over. It just means that it's time for us to kick it into overdrive to clear the roads. We spent the better part of the next day scraping the roads twice again and clearing the gigantic snow pile off the Common.

Including the blizzard, we went out a total of 16 times in January (three times just for dirt roads). We received a lot of rain during the first part of January and went through a considerable amount of sand compared to this time last year. Hopefully the rest of winter will be kind to us, so we don't have to dig into our reserve pile of sand. The extra sand has been stored outside and it will be chunky due to the frost that gets into the pile, and chunky sand causes constant clogging issues in the sanders and the drivers must keep stopping to clear the clogs.

When we weren't busy sanding, plowing, or cleaning trucks, we managed to complete some of the mandatory yearly training such as bloodborne pathogens, hearing conservation, fire extinguishers, and personnel protective equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director