

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**DATE: March 8, 2019****Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder**svandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Road Crews Have Already Responded To As Many Storms In 2019 As In All of 2018

Hunterdon County's Public Works units have already responded to the same number of storms since January as they did in all of last year, Freeholder Shaun Van Doren, the Board's liaison to the Department of Engineering and Public Works (DPW), has reported.

Van Doren, in his report at the March 5th Freeholder meeting, stated, "There were 14 major storm events over the course of 2018 requiring a great many hours of overtime, use of materials and resources, and toll on the personnel and equipment to keep County roads safe.

So far in 2019 we have already tied that number in just 60 days with 14 storm events beginning on January 7th through the storms of March 1st through the 4th."

Van Doren said that the County's DPW personnel, "Have dealt with a number of snow storms and the major wind storm on February 24th and 25th. There has also been a substantial amount of dangerous icing on roads in the evenings that require added attention by DPW."

The Freeholder noted, "The County's Building and Maintenance crews also deal with the effect of storms at the County buildings on Main Street, at the Justice Center, the Libraries, the Route 12 Complex, the Human Services and Senior Center buildings on Gauntt Place, the Emergency Services Training Complex, and the parking lots for park properties. Those crews respond as frequently as the road crews."

"The County's crews have responded admirably in very difficult circumstances. There is a high expectation of performance from the residents of Hunterdon County and from all accounts that expectation is being met," Van Doren concluded.

The Hunterdon County Department of Engineering and Public Works is responsible for ensuring safe road conditions during extreme weather on 246 miles of county roadways, through services that include snow plowing, brine distribution, salting roadways, clearing fallen trees and branches, and responding to other catastrophic events.