

A robust winter season and more precipitation expected in the coming weeks has Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) officials looking for ways to conserve salt as materials run in short supply and they are down to less than 150,000 tons on hand. As delivery is becoming more and more difficult, KYTC engineers are implementing strategies, such as relying more on plowing and less on treatment, to try to stretch their supply.

KYTC began this winter with a 60,000-ton emergency reserve inside the Mega Cavern. Even the state's largest reserve, at the Louisville Mega Cavern, has been deeply tapped.

As of today, the reserve is down to 26,000 tons and the 12 districts of the Department of Highways collectively have requested 18,000 tons of the reserve with to replenish their supplies.

On average, the cabinet uses 200,000 to 250,000 tons of salt a year. To date this winter, KYTC crews have spread more than 300,000 tons. With most of the country experiencing an unusually harsh winter, shipments of salt have slowed and new supplies are hard to find.