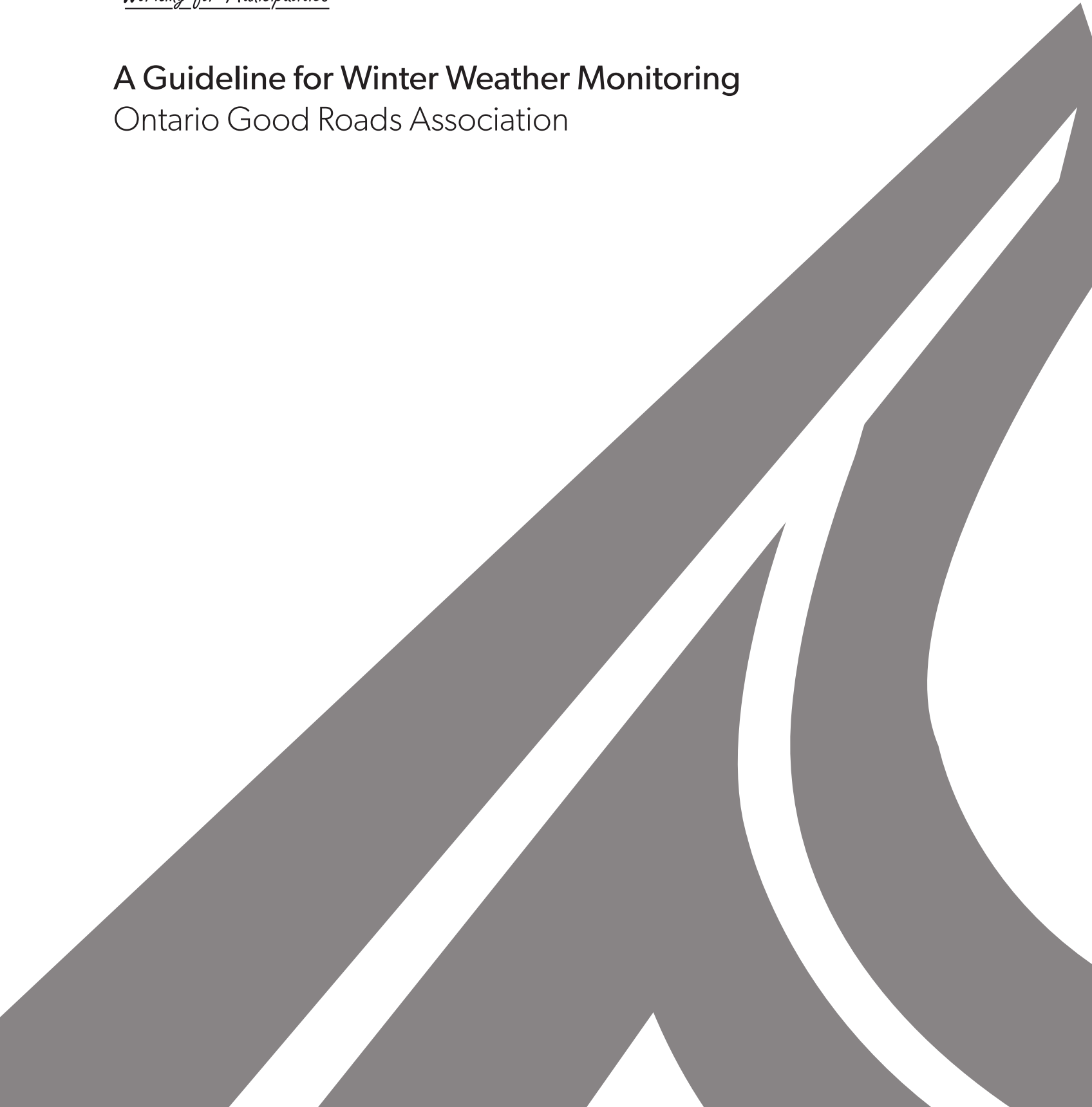




*Working for Municipalities*

# A Guideline for Winter Weather Monitoring

Ontario Good Roads Association



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## Rationale

A patroller is required to observe both weather and road conditions either in the field or electronically to determine if a winter event response to a winter event is required (typically a municipality using electronic surveillance will supplement the electronic information with field observations). The purpose of this document is to provide municipalities with guidance as to the frequency with which weather forecasts should be monitored and the actions that should be undertaken on the approach of the event.

All weather monitoring must be performed at a frequency which enables a winter event response which complies with the MMS.

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## Definitions

**Electronic Surveillance..** means the monitoring and recording of road and weather conditions using RWIS information supplemented with local weather forecasts and/or a value added meteorological service. Electronic surveillance is a tool to supplement field observations to determine if a winter event response is required to a winter event.

**LOS. .** means a council approved Level of Service policy

**MMS. .** means Ontario Regulation 239/02, Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways or Ontario Regulation 612/06 Minimum Maintenance Standards for Highways in the City of Toronto

**Patroller..** means a person that is either a dedicated winter patroller or a person whose duties include winter patrolling.

**Road Weather Information System (RWIS). .** means instrumentation located along a highway that provides local pavement and meteorological data.

**Value Added Meteorological Service (VAMS). .** means a weather service that provides a site specific forecast tailored to an agency's needs that includes but is not limited to: atmospheric temperature, relative humidity and/or dew point, wind speed and direction, and precipitation.

**Winter Event..** means a weather condition affecting roads such as snowfall, wind-blown snow, sleet, freezing rain, frost, or ice, to which a winter event response is required.

**Winter Event Response..** means a series of winter control activities performed in response to a winter event.

**Winter Patrol. .** means the field observation of weather and road conditions.

**Winter Season..** means the season when the municipality normally performs winter highway maintenance

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## **Pre and Post Winter Season**

In the month pre and post winter season municipal staff should monitor and record weather forecasts once per shift. If a winter event is forecast or if there is a potential for the formation of ice prior to the start of the next scheduled shift a night and/or weekend patrol(s) of representative roads should be scheduled. If a night or weekend patrol of a route of representative roads is scheduled, the patroller will monitor and record the weather forecast, actual weather observed and road conditions. The patrol person should be authorized to initiate a winter event response, which complies with the MMS or LOS , if conditions warrant a response.

## **During the Winter Season**

During the season when the municipality performs winter highway maintenance, the minimum interval at which weather forecasts should be monitored is at least once per shift or three times per day at intervals to be determined by a municipality to enable a winter event response which complies with the MMS or LOS. The monitoring activity and response taken must be recorded.

If the municipality does not have access to RWIS or subscribe to a VAMS, the municipality should print and save forecasts for their local area however acquired.

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## **Limitations**

Training of the patroller is essential. Please be aware that all staff reviewing RWIS data as part of a data sharing agreement with the Ministry of Transportation must complete the computer based training course as offered by the Ontario Good Roads Association.

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## **Winter Operations Reference Documents**

1. A Guideline for Patrolling Representative Roads in Winter – OGRA 2012
2. A Guideline for Preparing for and Decommissioning Winter Operations – OGRA 2012
3. A Guideline for Training Patrol Staff – OGRA 2012
4. A Guideline for Developing a Level of Service Policy – OGRA 2012
5. Winter Operations Plan Template – OGRA 2012

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