

Virginia DOT Streamlines Winter Operations with CalAmp iOn.



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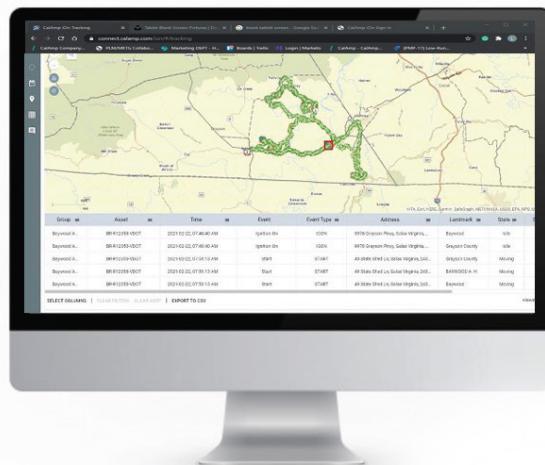


Picture a bone-chilling acre of paved lot in an area of Virginia prone to snow and ice. A storm is expected to hit within the next 18 to 24 hours. Trucks equipped with plows and graders converge from around the region, ready to perform anti-icing treatments or plow snow. Some are part of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) owned fleet of approximately 4,000 vehicles, while thousands more are contractor vehicles supplementing the fleet.

In the past, VDOT staffers would stand in the parking lot with clipboards, manually checking in each arriving truck. The same process unfolded across the state's nine districts every time maintenance units were called in. It was slow, tedious, and—during a storm—miserably cold.

VDOT's Severe Weather Team decided there had to be a better way. Leveraging CalAmp's geofencing and telematics technology, they designed a more efficient process that allows vehicles to check in automatically as they arrive on site. Geofences are now set up around each district headquarters, and staff can monitor arrivals in real time from a centralized dashboard.

"It's easy for us to see that a contractor entered the lot at 9:55 a.m. Supervisors then have the confirmed information they need to continue that check-in process in our internal systems and get the contractor on the road," said A.J. Younes, Emergency Operations Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Virginia.



"There's a sense among the contractors that they're being held to a higher level of accountability. It makes them a little more mindful of their P's and Q's."

Brandy Borja
Emergency Operations Analyst



Faster, Safer, and More Accountable

The automated check-in process saves time and reduces the need for manual oversight in harsh weather conditions. It also provides an additional layer of accountability by automatically recording each vehicle's arrival and departure data. "Once you enter the geofence, you're on the clock and working," said Brandy Borja, Emergency Operations Analyst on the Severe Weather Team. "We want to make sure the people we pay to push snow for us are actually doing what they're supposed to be doing and are paid properly," Borja said.

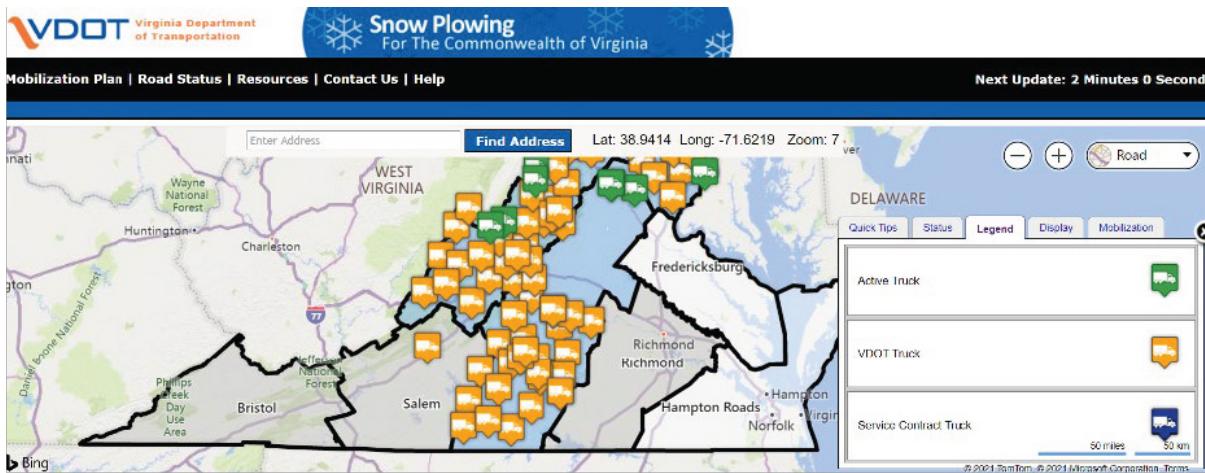


CalAmp's iOn gives the team full visibility into contractor activity during storms. Managers can verify that vehicles are active on their routes and address issues like mechanical failures or downtime quickly. Using an API that connects VDOT's internal system with CalAmp's platform, managers can also track the percentage of time each vehicle is in motion during assigned work periods.

Contractors are expected to maintain a minimum 65% movement rate while on duty—data that was impossible to collect before.

"Now," explained Borja, "If we say, you need to go push from 10:00 to 2:00, we put that in our system. That API calls CalAmp's application and says, 'Was this truck moving, and what percent of time was it moving from 10:00 to 2:00?' If the contractor was not moving 65% of the time," said Borja, "we have to do some research."

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Transparency for Virginia Residents

When major snowstorms hit, residents naturally want to know when their streets will be cleared. To increase transparency, VDOT launched an interactive online snow-plow map that pulls live data from CalAmp. The map updates every five minutes, allowing the public to track plows in real time and see when their areas are being serviced.

"Our trucks will show up on the map, and the public can see where our forces are and where they're moving," said Borja.

Building Public Trust Through Data

Whether it's providing live updates to citizens or improving oversight of contractor operations, iOn has become central to VDOT's mission of efficiency and accountability.

"State and local government agencies know they must continually earn the public's trust," said Paul Washiko, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Telematics Solutions. "The data VDOT gathers through iOn helps them prove to residents that every resource is being used wisely."

For a demo on how to streamline your fleet or public works operations, visit:

CalAmp.com/gov