

"Snowcats On Call"

Snow Transport Specialists, L.L.C. Offers Contract Snowcat Services



In the midst of a major winter storm, one of your sites on a remote mountainside goes down. It's time to get the snowcat out that's been sitting idle since last winter and call out a repair crew. It takes a couple of hours to round up the crew, and get the snowcat loaded on the flatbed and to hitchup the Suburban. A few more hours are needed to drive to the end road closest to the site. A flat tire on the trailer costs almost an hour. The snowcat is unloaded and the crew climbs aboard. About an hour later you get a cellular call from the service technician who doubles as a snowcat driver. He says he is stuck after sliding off the side of a narrow site access road. Meanwhile the company is losing money because of the cell-site outage, not to mention leaving customers without phone service when they might need it most.

Snow Transport Specialists, L.L.C. of

Littleton, Colorado has established a unique service that will make sure this scenario does not happen to you. Starting November 1997, the company began positioning snowcats, along with trucks and trailers to transport them and highly experienced operators, at strategic locations throughout North America. The company's goal is to have a snow vehicle and operator stationed within 100 miles of each location where it has a contract.



Snow Transport Specialists feels the problem with snow vehicle operations

is not usually caused by the quality of the equipment used, but most often its infrequent usage. This leads to the operators never really having the experience to become truly proficient and confident at using the snow vehicle. While a snow vehicle operator at a utility or cellular company may only get 2 to 4 hours of driving experience per year in conjunction with his normal duties as a wireless technician or lineman, at Snow Transport Specialists, driving is the operator's primary function all winter long, and he will typically log 200 to 400 hours of driving time.



Snow vehicles used by Snow Transport Specialists provide a distinct advantage. The vehicles are specifically suited to the terrain, snow conditions and challenges of each site, and they are of the newest and best designs available. This results in their equipment being able to reach sites under the worst of conditions and much quicker than the typical utility or cellular company snow vehicle. While a typical snow vehicle may be able to travel at 2 to 4 mph in deep snow, Snow Transport Specialists' vehicles can travel at 12 to 16 mph in

(continued on page 51)

Circle 125 on Reader Response Card