

## SUNRISE LOGISTICS/FLEETFLOW MODEL 440T

Pennsylvania Produce Distributor Gaining Valuable Time, Helping Increase Safety with Scraper Systems™ by Rite-Hite® FleetFlow™

## CASE STUDY

### QUICK FACTS

**COMPANY:** Sunrise Logistics (Four Seasons Produce)

**FACILITY:** 100 trailers and 30 box (parcel) trucks

**PRODUCT:** Fresh produce

**GOALS:** Reduce trailer snow removal time

**SOLUTION:** FleetFlow Model 440T for Automatic Snow Removal

**RESULTS:** Clear snow from rooftops of the entire fleet in 2 hours instead of an entire day

### THE SITUATION

Pennsylvania winters can be frigid and snowy. A dream for those who love each season, but a nightmare for anyone working in the transportation or logistics industries that must deal with slippery roads and blowing snow.

Ephrata, Pennsylvania-based Sunrise Logistics – the transportation, handling, and distribution arm of Four Seasons Produce – is very familiar with the problems created by snow in the winter. In the Northeast, Sunrise Logistics provides a wide array of services, including refrigerated warehousing for ripening, drayage for imported or exported containers, dedicated fleet service, full-truckload service, less-than-truckload service, multi-vendor consolidation, and weekly deliveries.

#### SNOWED IN

As a transporter of perishable items, making on-time deliveries is critical for Sunrise Logistics and its fleet, which serves customers across the continental United States. One recurring challenge was getting rid of snow from the rooftops of its large fleet. Since blowing snow and frozen snow (or “ice missiles”) flying from trailers can wreak havoc on interstates and roadways, it was imperative for the company to remove these hazards from its fleet of 100 trailers and 30 box (parcel) trucks after every storm – which occur frequently in Ephrata.

Road hazards aren’t the only problem rooftop snow can cause transporters. Just 6 inches (15 cm) of snow can add 5,000



*The FleetFlow™ Model 440T can remove up to 24 inches of snow from a trailer rooftop in less than a minute. This portable snow removal machine can easily be relocated during non-snow months.*

pounds (2268 kg) of weight to a trailer, putting it at risk of exceeding weight limit laws and affecting its aerodynamics and fuel efficiency. Additionally, laws against commercial vehicles traveling with snow-covered roofs have been enacted in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Quebec. More laws are pending in New York, Massachusetts, and Delaware. Fines for failure to clear a vehicle range from \$75 to \$1,500 per offense, plus a court appearance (in NJ).

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### THE SOLUTION

#### REDUCING SNOW REMOVAL TIME BY HOURS

Dusty Moran, fleet services manager for Sunrise Logistics, discovered a solution that helped reduce the time it took to clear off the snow by several hours – the FleetFlow Model 440T, a heavy duty, fully-automated snow removal machine.

“What used to take us most of the day – if not all day – we can now do in just a matter of a few hours,” said Moran. “It really automated a lot of what we used to do manually.”

The Scraper Systems™ by Rite-Hite® FleetFlow™ is an adjustable height plow assembly that – as the company name suggests – scrapes snow off the top of trucks when they pass under it. Available with full-automation or pendant control, as well as portability for easy relocation when the snow season ends, this snow removal machine allows fleet employees to do the jobs they’re paid for – transporting goods on time.

“It definitely is more user friendly [than manually clearing snow] and it allowed us to minimize the amount of labor that we had [dedicated to snow removal],” said Moran. “We had a lot of heavy snow, we had some powdery snow, a lot of what I would call slushy, frozen precipitation on top and it took it all off.”

The heavy-duty FleetFlows can remove up to 24 inches (60 cm) of wet, heavy snow in less than 30 seconds and up to 60 per hour. And while its design is strong enough to remove 2 feet (0.6 m) of snow easily, it is gentle enough to safely pass across truck roofs.

**“Absolutely I would recommend it!” Moran said of the FleetFlow Model 440T. ■**



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