

## Stadium Authority & Teammates Come Together to Defeat the Elements

For Immediate Release, December 22, 2009  
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In addition to managing and maintaining some of the finest sports facilities in the country, the Maryland Stadium Authority is prepared to respond to any emergency, doing whatever necessary for fans to access the stadiums and enjoy the game. This commitment was demonstrated the weekend of December 18-20, when the stadium complex was ready for the Ravens home game after one of the most intense snowstorms in city history.

"Preparation and ongoing communication were crucial to this successful effort," said Executive Director Michael Frenz. "Starting Thursday, our Director of Football Operations, Jeff Provenzano, and Director of Security and Public Safety, Jim Slusser, met regularly with Roy Sommerhof, Ravens' vice president of stadium operations, to cover every contingency, from providing transportation to the stadium to clearing away tons of snow to maintaining safe pedestrian access."

Stadium Authority Buildings and Grounds personnel, as well as the HVAC and electrical shops, assisted in all operations. Once in place Friday, they stayed onsite until after the game Sunday, working with Day and Sons, the contractor responsible for pretreatment of paved surfaces and snow removal.

All MSA lots were cleared before the scheduled opening time of 11:15 AM, Sunday. When plowing was completed, salt was applied to all of the lots and sidewalks to prevent slip and falls.

Maryland Department of Corrections provided 128 inmates and officers who worked in the seating bowl from early Saturday until after the snow stopped late that night. They were replaced by 60 more inmates who shoveled until noon.

MSA security personnel Walt Schmidbauer, Greg Cook and Walt Dacuycuy worked with the corrections officers and inmates. The Ravens provided gloves, socks, cold weather coats and a rest area for breaks.

"Removing 18 to 22 inches of snow in a 72,000 capacity stadium during a blizzard is a significant challenge," Jim Slusser said. "The Department of Corrections was not required to take this on, but with commitment to the community and team spirit, they put forth a great effort."

Aramark, the stadium caterer, provided 15,000 hot dogs and 400 dozen donuts --plus coffee, hot chocolate and chicken broth -- to the work force during their breaks.

"I could not be more proud of this group," said Jeff Provenzano. "They knew what was required to play football and maintain a safe perimeter, and they did it."

"This was a three day ordeal, much of it spent in the elements" Provenzano continued. "Their efforts resulted in success, on and off the field."

Stadium Authority officials regularly work with state and local transportation officials, and their joint efforts made public access to the complex possible. The Baltimore City Department of Transportation ensured that routes around the stadium were open. The Baltimore-Washington Parkway was maintained throughout the entire blizzard.

Maryland Transportation Authority highway crews and staff kept Interstate 395, 695 and 95 open through the storm. Maryland Department of Transportation also deserves credit for plowing the runway at BWI that allowed the Chicago Bears to arrive safely.

The following is a list of staff, contractors and partners who stepped up to help Maryland Stadium Authority and the Ravens provide a safe, successful Sunday afternoon at M&T Bank Stadium:

- Assistant Operations Manager Bart Shifler; Jimmy Bell, John Brooks, Mike Andryzcek, Chip Linsebigler, James Archer, Rick Pack, Gilbert Cooper and Davon Fink, who worked Friday through Sunday night.
- CHIMES
- Staffing Specialist
- UNISOURCE CONTRACTING
- NEXT DAY STAFFING
- POTTS AND CALLAHAN
- CLASSIC LAWN AND LANDSCAPING
- LMC LANDSCAPING
- Whiting and Turner
- Day and Son Contracting
- Aramark
- Central Parking
- Safe Management
- Department of Corrections
- Baltimore office of Emergency Management

Oriole Park facilities staff who volunteered for the team:

- Alonzo Andrews
- Vola Linton
- Mary Buckingham
- John Mckinney
- Bill Schier
- Hugh McClurkin
- Matt Kastel

Audio visual professionals Vince Steier and Al Ringham spent Saturday night at the stadium to make sure the systems were all operational.

In all, about 1,750 people , many of whom slept on the floors of the club level, made this remarkable feat possible.

“Just like the action on the field, these operations require teamwork,” Stadium Authority Chairman John Morton concluded. “This weekend, millions of spectators and viewers witnessed the professionalism and resourcefulness of Stadium Authority employees and their teammates. They made it possible for fans and players at M&T Bank Stadium to have a safe and enjoyable experience.”