



[ABOUT US](#)

[TxLTAP EMAIL](#)

[AVAILABLE TRAINING](#)

TxLTAP August Newsletter

August 2024 | Volume 2 Issue 7

OSHA Safe + Sound Week



Safe + Sound Week occurs annually in August across the nation, celebrating achievements in workplace health and safety programs while providing valuable insights and strategies to ensure the safety of American workers. In the upcoming edition, Safe + Sound Week will focus on offering businesses resources related to job hazard analysis. Getting involved is simple and enjoyable!

[View More](#)

Crash Prevention Efforts

The FHWA's Proven Safety Countermeasure initiatives (PSCI) included 28 strategies effective in reducing roadway fatalities and injuries. Transportation agencies are urged to adopt these strategies to meet local, state, and national safety goals across various road types for all users.

[Read More](#)

TxDOT Research Library



Check out Every Day Counts (EDC)

The EDC Program has significantly boosted innovation deployment in transportation, that values efficiency and safety. These innovations drive efficiency gains at state, local, and tribal levels, saving resources and accelerating infrastructure improvements.

[View More](#)



Pave it Black - Podcast

The National Asphalt Pavement Association's (NAPA) official podcast *Pave it Black* covers people, challenges, technologies within the asphalt pavement industry, road construction, and research and development.

[Read More](#)



TxDOT's Research Library offers over 26,000 unique transportation-related titles and provides comprehensive research services to support the transportation community through print and electronic resources, and utilizing partnerships for enhanced knowledge management.

[Read More](#)

UTA
- TxLTAP -
WORK ZONE TRAINING
Check Out One of TxLTAP's Work Zone Safety Courses:
CCT520: Work Zone Control & Qualified Flagger Training
16 Hours | Max 25 Participants | Minimum 10
Primary course for all personnel involved in design, layout, and maintenance of traffic control devices on public roadways. Visit our website to learn more about this training: www.txltap.org
Contact us for more information:
+1 817 272 6698

Check out TxLTAP's Social Media!

View, follow, and share our TxLTAP social accounts. Stay up to date with the latest of what TxLTAP has to offer.



Building a Robust in-house Safety Program for City/County Public Works Department

By: Kolby Burkhardt, Safety and Loss Control Consultant and James Bailey, Public Works Outreach Consultant

Introduction:

Ensuring the safety of city or county road employees is paramount for a smoothly functioning public works department. Developing a comprehensive in-house safety program is essential to creating a work environment where employees can perform their duties with confidence while minimizing the risks associated with their operations. For instance, in a public works setting, this may involve routine road maintenance, construction projects, or emergency repairs. In this article, we will explore some key aspects of a safety program. Additionally, we'll look at how you can utilize the University of Texas Arlington's Texas Local Technical Assistance Program's (TxLTAP's) training, resources, and professional assistance to further your safety program.

Training:

One of the foundational pillars of a successful safety program is providing thorough and ongoing training for all employees. This includes general safety awareness, hazard recognition, and specific protocols for working in or near roadways. Regular training sessions should be conducted to ensure that employees are aware of the latest safety standards and procedures.

In the context of roadwork, training on the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) is crucial. This manual provides guidelines for traffic control devices, ensuring uniformity and consistency. Training sessions should cover the proper set-up and use of signs, signals, and pavement markings as per TMUTCD standards. Employees should also be educated on the importance of maintaining a safe work zone and understanding the flow of traffic. Consider scheduling training courses like the LTP/CCT 520 Work Zone Traffic Control/Qualified Flagger, or for supervisors, LTP 421 Traffic Control Supervisor.

Utilizing the Texas Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices:

Incorporating the Texas MUTCD into the safety program ensures compliance with state standards and promotes consistency in traffic control practices. More specifically, following TMUTCDs *Section 6A – Fundamental Principle of Temporary Traffic Control* and *Section 6C.04 – Worker Safety Considerations* not only ensures road users are safe but also your employees. Because there is no one-size-fits-all design to cover all real-life roadway conditions, it is important for employees to understand “fundamental principles” of how to protect themselves and the public.

Job-Specific Training - Heavy Equipment Operations:

For public works departments that utilize heavy equipment, the employer must

provide specialized training to ensure safe and proficient operations. Employees should undergo thorough training on the proper operation and maintenance of heavy equipment, including excavators, loaders, and paving machines. Emphasizing safe operating practices, equipment inspections, and emergency procedures can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. When hiring new employees, consider conducting a pre-hire skills assessment to verify equipment experience. By utilizing equipment specific checklists from [TxLTAP's resource library](#), you can verify the knowledge and experience of the applicant(s).

Pre-Job Planning/Safety Briefings/Tailgates:

Implementing a structured pre-job planning process is vital for enhancing safety on worksites. Whether it's called a Job Hazard Assessment (JHA), Job Safety Analysis (JSA), morning huddle, or tailgate discussion, this practice involves discussing the steps of the upcoming task, identifying potential hazards, and establishing safety controls. For instance, before a chip and seal operation, a pre-job briefing would address the specific steps involved, potential hazards (like loose gravel), and safety controls (such as proper signage and personal protective equipment (PPE)). This proactive approach ensures that all team members are well-informed and prepared for the task at hand, reducing the likelihood of accidents or incidents.

Risk Assessments:

Conducting regular risk assessments is fundamental to identifying potential hazards and implementing preventive measures. For instance, if a public works department is planning road resurfacing, a risk assessment might involve evaluating the potential risks associated with traffic diversions, heavy machinery operation, and temporary road closures. Identifying these risks early allows for effective mitigation strategies. Under MUTCD, a key element of worker safety is having a trained person designated by the employer to conduct a basic hazard assessment for the worksite and job classification in the activity area.

Communication:

Effective communication is key to a successful safety program. For instance, regular safety meetings can include discussions on recent incidents, near misses, or changes in safety protocols. This creates an open forum for employees to share experiences and insights, fostering a collaborative approach to enhancing safety within the public works department.

New Hire Orientation:

Integrating safety into the onboarding process for new hires is crucial for instilling a safety-conscious mindset from the beginning. For instance, during new hire orientation, specific examples related to the local road conditions and potential hazards in the city or county can be highlighted. This helps new employees understand the unique challenges they may face in their roles.

Policies and Procedures:

Clearly defined, effectively communicated, and well-enforced policies and procedures are the backbone of a robust safety program. For instance, when establishing guidelines for setting up work zones, public works departments can provide specific examples of how to use traffic control devices in compliance with the TMUTCD. This ensures that employees understand the practical applications of the established safety policies.

Conclusion:

Developing an in-house safety program tailored to the unique challenges of city or county public works departments is a proactive approach to safeguarding the well-being of employees. For instance, by focusing on training, risk assessments, communication, new hire orientation, policies and procedures, the utilization of the TMUTCD, job-specific training, and implementing a pre-job planning process, public works departments can create a culture of safety that extends across all levels of the organization. Prioritizing safety not only protects employees but also contributes to the overall efficiency and success of public works projects and protects the public. For additional help, consider reaching out to Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Public Works Outreach Consultant James Bailey or reviewing the Pool's [loss prevention resources](#).

Where TxLTAP will be!



Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Legislative Conference

American Public Works Association Public Works Expo (APWA PWX)

TxLTAP Partners

FHWA

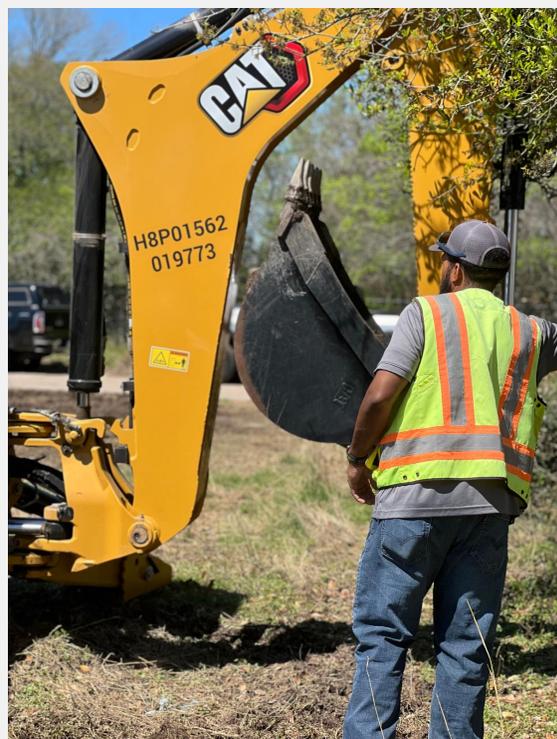
APWA

TxDOT

NACE

NLTAPA

Instructor Spotlight



Devon Morris

Devon's journey began in a small city in upstate New York named Rochester, but his quest for better career prospects led him to Dallas, TX, in 2013. Starting as an equipment operator in the construction industry, he mastered asphalt milling machines, loaders, sweepers, and more over the span of a decade. Unexpectedly, Devon transitioned to teaching heavy equipment courses with TxLTAP, discovering a passion for instructing that he never anticipated. Embracing the idea that stepping out of one's comfort zone yields tremendous growth, he found true happiness in helping others and being of service. Actively seeking educational opportunities, Devon is dedicated to honing his skills as an instructor, striving to inject a sense of enjoyment and safety into the learning process for individuals looking to enhance their operating abilities.

"Great instructor! I love how hands on the course the course is."
"Great class, the Dead Man Challenge was super helpful and fun!"
"Great teacher, would like to learn more."
"The instructor is the best!"

Webcast Training Now Available

TxLTAP is excited to announce the launch of webcast/live training versions for several critical



safety courses, designed to meet the diverse needs of today's transportation professionals. These courses include:

- Fall Safety (8hr),
- Excavation Safety (8hr),
- Confined Space Safety (8hr), and
- Work Zone Construction Site Safety (12hr).



By offering these sessions online, TxLTAP aims to provide flexible and accessible training solutions that cater to the varied schedules and locations of participants. These live training sessions are structured to deliver in-depth insights and practical knowledge across essential safety topics.



Coming Soon 520 in Spanish

TxLTAP is thrilled to announce that the 16-hour Work Zone Traffic Control/Qualified Flagger course (LTP520) will soon be available in **Spanish!** □

This course is designed to enhance safety and efficiency in work zones by providing essential training in traffic control and flagging procedures. 4-year flagger card with successful course completion.

Stay tuned for more details!

Instructors Wanted

TxLTAP is currently seeking instructors with extensive ASPHALT RELATED EXPERIENCE and METAL GUARD RAIL EXPERIENCE who are capable of traveling to various locations across Texas. Your expertise will play a crucial role in delivering high-quality training to local transportation professionals.

UTA
Division for Enterprise Development
- TxLTAP -

INSTRUCTORS WANTED

Are you looking for your next adventure in the great State of Texas?

TXLTAP IS LOOKING FOR EXPERTS IN:

- ✓ Work Zone
- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Heavy Equipment
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Flagging
- ✓ Environmental
- ✓ Electrical

Email Your Resume and Letter of Interest to:
TxLTAP@uta.edu

UTA
Division for Enterprise Development
- TxLTAP -

UTA | Division for Enterprise Development | TxLTAP
817-272-2581 | txltap@uta.edu | 140 W. Mitchell St. Arlington, TX 76019

Interested Candidates



Partner Content

TxDOT created #EndTheStreakTX in an effort to raise awareness about the long streak of traffic deaths in Texas and how this is an issue that impacts every Texan.

Visit
Webpage



Contact Us
817-272-2581



[TxLTAP](#) | 140 W. Mitchell Street | Arlington, TX 76019 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!