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WORK ZONES
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

In any work zone along any road, major or minor, expect the unexpected. Normal speed limits are reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and vehicles may be working on or near the road. All this means that motorists must be even more alert in and near work zones.

Why? Because men and women working on the road risk injury—and even death—and construction machinery can pose a threat to drivers who are not aware of construction warning signs and what they mean.

Orange diamond-shaped warning signs are generally posted in advance of a road construction project. Besides a warning sign, a highway worker will often be posted with a sign or a flag. When you see these warnings, stay alert and be prepared to obey special work zone signs and flaggers directions.

CONDITIONS CHANGE:

Here are some things to remember about work zones:

- Things may look more or less unchanged to you, but the situation and circumstances in a work zone are often very different from normal.
- White, with black legend, regulatory signs that show a reduced speed limit may be posted along with orange work zone signs.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In a work zone, a flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign. You can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
- The normal 55 mph speed limit may be reduced to 45 mph or less in a work zone.
- Lanes are likely to be closed in work zones and traffic patterns changed as the work progresses. Watch for detour and lane diversion signs.

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CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO TRAIN YOUR EMPLOYEES?

FACT:

- ◆ Highway Construction is now one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States.
- ◆ Risk of injury is 66% greater for highway workers than for the average worker.
- ◆ Risk of death is 7 times higher for highway workers than the average worker.
- ◆ Fatal errors occur when employees lack *proper* training.

“Rebuilding the highway workforce is an industry priority as agencies across the country face a serious shortage of trained and experienced personnel resulting from attrition and an aging workforce. At the same time, cutting-edge pavement preservation and construction technologies demand new skills and knowledge from highway workers. Training is also an important contributor to customer satisfaction: accelerated construction and high-quality products are important training by-products. By using qualified and certified personnel, agencies experience more accurate and reliable test results, reduced potential for agency-contractor disputes, and fewer project failures.”

Source: American Traffic Safety Services Association

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

AREAS OF TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH T²

The T² office would like to bring to your attention the training that is available through the Technology Transfer Program. Currently the T² office is offering courses in the following areas:

Traffic Signal Maintenance
Shop Safety
Work Zone Traffic Safety
Defensive Driving
Asphalt Paving and Compaction
Soils and Grades

Heavy Equipment Operator Training
Introduction to Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
Short Span Bridge Construction and Maintenance
Drug and Alcohol Recognition for Supervisors
First Aid
Trenching and Shoring

Also, training in **Traffic Operations** will soon be available upon individual county and city request. Two classes under consideration are **Computer Training** and **Understanding Legal Land Descriptions**.

For additional information on any of the aforementioned classes, please contact Danny Moore at (501) 569-2380 or 1-800-344-1285. You can also contact the T² office by e-mail at danny.moore@ahtd.state.ar.us or ltap@ahtd.state.ar.us.

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SHORT SPAN BRIDGE SEMINARS CONTINUE

Please take notice!! The Technology Transfer office has 3 remaining statewide seminars on Short Span Bridge Construction and Maintenance to be given at selected locations across the State during the summer months. Dr. Thomas J. Parsons, Professor of Civil Engineering at Arkansas State University, will be conducting the seminars in an effort to enhance the bridge load limit awareness of County Judges and City and County Bridge Maintenance Supervisors. Seating for each seminar will be limited. Therefore, it is crucial that seminar attendance registration be completed at the earliest possible date. The remaining seminar dates and locations are as follows:

July 24, 2003	Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District office, 818 Hwy. 62/65/412, Harrison, AR.
August 7, 2003	East Arkansas Planning and Development District office, 2905 King Street, Jonesboro, AR.

If County Judges, Road Superintendents, Bridge Superintendents or Public Works Directors are interested in attending one of the scheduled seminars, please contact Danny Moore, Technology Transfer Coordinator, at 1-800-344-1285 or (501) 569-2380, fax (501) 569-2070 or e-mail danny.moore@ahtd.state.ar.us as soon as possible. Classes are conducted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the dates indicated.

COUNTY JUDGES' ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS

The County Judges' Association held their Annual Spring Meeting on June 12-13, 2003 in Eureka Springs. Please note the dates and location of the Annual Fall Meeting for the County Judges' Association.

2003 Annual Fall Meeting
October 9-10, 2003

The Austin Hotel and Convention Center
 Hot Springs/Garland County
 Telephone: (501) 623-6600 or (877) 623-6697
 (Group rate \$65.00 plus tax)

Plan ahead to avoid conflicts in your schedule. Additional information regarding meeting registration and a tentative agenda will be forthcoming to each judge's office prior to the scheduled conference.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

It is the goal of the T² personnel to continually strive to provide up to date and informative articles that relate to your working environment. If there is a topic that you would like to see us do an article on or if you have an article of interest that you believe would be beneficial to others, please submit a copy to the T² staff for consideration. If you have comments or suggestions regarding the T² Newsletter (Arkansas Roads and Streets), article submissions, topic requests or meeting announcements, please contact us. This newsletter is provided to you as a free service from the Technology Transfer Program.

Please help us help you!