

NEW OPTIONS FOR COMPUTER UPGRADE TRAINING

The T² office has enhanced its ability to provide computer upgrade training to the local agency employees across the State. The Business and Industry Center of Pulaski Technical College has provided excellent computer training opportunities for local agency employees through one-day training classes. The Business and Industry Center is considering purchasing additional computer equipment so that training classes can be presented to local agencies at their respective locations, rather than training recipients having to travel to Little Rock for the training. The number of mobile training computers will initially be limited to approximately eight or ten. Additional equipment will be considered as the need arises and funds become available. If your agency has access to an existing computer laboratory that is suitable for training and can be used without additional charge, please advise the T² office. We will try to arrange a training class or multiple training classes for your agency at that facility. Contact the T² office for further information or future computer class scheduling.

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The Pulaski County Courthouse in Little Rock, built in 1889, is a Romanesque Revival Structure by architect Maximilian Orlopp. A Classical Revival addition was added in 1914. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

ARKANSAS ROADS & STREETS

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NEW TRAINING SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS APPROVED FOR DEVELOPMENT AS T² TRAINING COURSES

The Arkansas Technology Transfer (T²) Advisory Committee recently met and approved the development of five new training courses for presentation to local agency groups through the T² Program.

Concrete Basics 101 should be available for presentation this spring and will be presented through the Arkansas Ready Mix Concrete Association (ARMCA). The course will cover the basics of concrete technology, materials, mix proportioning, concrete control tests, placing, finishing, curing, and protection of concrete.

Traffic Sign and Marking Practices and *Street Design for Urban Areas* have also been approved for development. The Civil Engineering Department of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville should have *Traffic Sign and Marking Practices* ready for presentation in the spring of 2007, and *Street Design for Urban Areas* should be ready sometime during the 2007 training year. These two training courses will be presented at five or six pre-selected locations throughout the State and will target urban street and roadway development projects and the local government engineers/consulting engineers, transportation engineers, and contractors that are responsible for the projects.



A seminar/workshop on *Chip Seal Application* was approved for development and presentation and will include an onsite application of a chip seal surface.

Additional course development was also approved for *Gravel Roads Maintenance* and *Culvert Sizing and Installation*. These training courses will supplement the training already developed by the staff of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and will have onsite demonstration projects.

Please advise the T² office if your city or county agency desires further information concerning these and other training courses offered at no cost by the T² Program.

NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK 2006 “WORKING AT THE SPEED OF NIGHT” HIGHLIGHTING WORK ZONE FATALITIES

The annual National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is being held April 3 - April 9 of this year. The purpose of NWZAW is to educate the nation on work-zone related injuries and fatalities. This year the theme for NWZAW is “Working at the Speed of Night.” More projects are being conducted at night to reduce the exposure of workers to high volumes of traffic and reduce the exposure of peak hour traffic to the hazards and dangers of work zones.

Informing the public on conditions that can be encountered and avoided when driving through a roadway construction zone is a part of this educational process. Summary data has been gathered on work zone crashes and fatalities by the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse (NWZSIC) to improve safety in highway work zones. The Clearinghouse is part of the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University. Information on the frequency of work zone fatalities and fatal crashes for 1995 to 2004, as shown in the table below, is available on the NWZSIC website.

Year	Fatalities	Fatal Crashes
1995	789	665
1996	717	635
1997	693	594
1998	772	681
1999	872	772
2000	1026	966
2001	989	877
2002	1186	1035
2003	1028	919
2004	1068	936

National Fatality Data

Nationwide there were 1,068 persons killed in construction and utility work zones in 2004. This figure is up from the previous year when 1,028 persons were killed. Also, it is noted that the number of nationwide work zone fatalities each year from 2000-2004 is higher than each year from 1995-1999. The average number of deaths nationwide has increased from 769 per year to 1,059 per year, based on these five-year analysis periods. Thus, the average number of work zone fatalities has increased 38 percent in the latest five-year period.

Another way to express these national figures is to note that from 1995-1999, a work zone fatality occurred once every 11.4 hours, while from 2000-2004, a work zone fatality occurred once every 8.3 hours.

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The data is also presented with totals by state. In Alabama, a similar trend can be seen where the last five years appear to be more severe than the previous five years. State specific frequency data can be obtained from the NWZSIC website at http://wzsafety.tamu.edu/crash_data/fatal.stm.

To reverse this trend, a continued effort is needed to improve the safety of work zones. In response to this need, Alabama Technology Transfer Center has joined efforts with the other 57 Local Technical Assistance Program centers across the country to improve work zone awareness. Promoting NWZAW is one step in this effort. Continued training on the standards and methods of temporary traffic control is another part of this effort. Training is based on standards and guidelines presented in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

The use of frequencies for this data does not take into account any increase in the lane miles of work zone activities or any increase in traffic volumes. Further research is needed to investigate the effect of these exposure variables.

Information on worker injuries has been researched by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). In the summary report of a past NIOSH workshop, injury prevention measures were noted as being the careful review of a traffic control plan and revising the Occupational Health and Safety Administration regulations to require adherence to the MUTCD. Data collection systems for non-fatal occupational injuries were also noted as providing insufficient detail to estimate the number of workers injured in work zones nationally. Better data collection to distinguish between injuries to motorists and injuries to workers was also recommended in the report.

To educate motorists about the hazards and dangers of work zones, the Federal Highway Administration has developed fact sheets about work zones. These sheets emphasize points such as:

- Congestion on our roads is growing, vehicle miles of travel are growing at a greater rate than miles of roadway;
- Work zone activity is significant;
- Work zone activity is increasing, many highways, including the interstates, are approaching their expected life span and need repair, which means more work zones;
- The majority of road work takes place on existing roads already carrying traffic;
- Work zones cause delay, often on already congested roads;
- Motorists and workers are increasingly exposed to work zones;
- Work zone safety continues to be a concern;
- Road users are frustrated with work zones; and
- Night work is increasingly being used to manage work zone delay and reduce exposure of workers and motorists.

Further details about each of these points is available at the FHWA website:
http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts_stats.htm

Additional items to increase work zone awareness can be found on the Alabama Technology Transfer Center website. Articles, reports, products, and website links are listed on the Work Zone Information Resources web page, which is located at <http://alabamat2.org/WZInfoResources.html>.

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