



ODOT divisions, crews awarded for safety in the workplace

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Safety in the work place is imperative when your office is literally inches away from a road full of fast moving vehicles. Mere seconds of distracted driving by a careless motorists can have devastating consequences for the men and women of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation who devote their lives and safety to construct, maintain and repair our highways, bridges and interstates. Meanwhile, ODOT continues to place emphasis on onsite reviews, accident follow up, continued safety education and other aspects of their worker safety program.

At Monday's monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, ODOT Director Mike Patterson handed out awards to ODOT crews who demonstrated a continued commitment to safety and have shown great improvement in safety practices this past year.

Since the safety awards began more than 20 years ago the total number of employee injury accidents has declined. Setting an all-time low at ODOT, employee accidents were reduced 34 percent in just the past year.

The Governor's Safety Excellence Award is presented each year to the ODOT field division with the best overall safety record in the past year. This year's award went to Division Two, which increased its safety performance record by 75 percent compared to the previous year. Total accidents, accident severity and lost work days are all taken into consideration in determining the Governor's Safety Award winner. In addition to a plaque recognizing Division Two, this year's award winner is also being given a trailer with a radar speed detector attached which will be placed in construction work zones to keep motorist advised of their speed.

Division Two, headquartered in Antlers, consists of Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Marshall, Pittsburg and Pushmataha Counties and Anthony Echelle is the Division Engineer.

The Progressive Excellence Award, which is presented to the ODOT field division that has most improved its safety rating during the past year, was awarded to Division Three, headquartered in Ada. The division improved its safety performance 73 percent from last year. Division Three consists of Cleveland, Coal, Garvin, Hughes, Johnston, Lincoln, McClain, Okfuskee, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties. Paul Rachel is the Division Engineer.

The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. This year's winners are:

- Division One, Sequoyah County Maintenance Crew
- Division Two, Heavener Residency
- Division Three, McClain County Maintenance Crew
- Division Four, Edmond Residency
- Division Five, Blaine County Maintenance Crew
- Division Six, Division Wide Crew
- Division Seven, I-35 Maintenance Crew
- Division Eight, Ottawa County Maintenance
- Division Nine, Office Service Division- Video Production Branch

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
200 N.E. 21st St. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000



The Governor's Safety Excellence Award was awarded to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Division Two Engineer Anthony Echelle at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The award is given to the field division which had the best overall safety record for the past year. Division Two increased its safety performance record by 75 percent compared to last year. Pictured left to right are Oklahoma Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman David Burrage, Echelle and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Progressive Excellence Award, which is presented to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation field division which has most improved its safety rating during the past year, was awarded to ODOT Division Three, headquartered in Ada, at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The division improved its safety performance 73 percent from last year. Pictured left to right are, Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, District Three Transportation Commissioner Dan Overland, ODOT Division Three Division Engineer Paul Rachel and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Sequoyah County Maintenance Crew was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Sequoyah County Maintenance Superintendent Billy Jacobs and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division Two Heavener Residency was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman David Burrage, Heavener Residency Superintendent David Huddleston and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division Three McClain County Maintenance Crew was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, District Three Transportation Commissioner Dan Overland, McClain County Maintenance Superintendent Raymond Riggle, and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division Four Edmond Residency was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, ODOT Division Four Division Engineer Brian Taylor and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division Five Blaine County Maintenance Crew was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission Secretary Todd Huckabay, Blaine County Maintenance Superintendent Mark Wray and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division Six Division Wide Maintenance Crew was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, District Six Transportation Commissioner Bobby Alexander, Division Wide Maintenance Crew Superintendent Terry Drew and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division Seven I-35 Maintenance Crew was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, District Seven Transportation Commissioner Brad Burgess, Division Seven I-35 Maintenance Superintendent Johnny Sullivan and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Division Eight Ottawa County Maintenance Crew was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Ottawa County Maintenance Superintendent Dustin Marang and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Office Services Division Video Branch was awarded the Director's Safety Award at the April 7 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, ODOT Office Services Assistant Division Manager Kevin Lowe and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.



At Monday's monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Mike Patterson handed out awards to Oklahoma Department of Transportation crews that demonstrated a continued commitment to safety and have shown great improvement this past year. Setting an all-time low at ODOT, employee accidents were reduced 34 percent in just the past year. Pictured left to right are ODOT Safety Branch Manager Mike Bracken, ODOT Division Three Division Engineer Paul Rachel, ODOT Division Four Division Engineer Brian Taylor, Blaine County Maintenance Superintendent Mark Wray, Heavener Residency Superintendent David Huddleston, ODOT Division Two Division Engineer Anthony Echelle, Sequoyah County Maintenance Superintendent Billy Jacobs, Ottawa County Maintenance Superintendent Dustin Marang, Division Seven I-35 Maintenance Superintendent Johnny Sullivan, Division Six Division Wide Maintenance Crew Superintendent Terry Drew, McClain County Maintenance Superintendent Raymond Riggle and ODOT Office Services Assistant Division Manager Kevin Lowe.