Recommended Safety Practices During Lightning Storms

The Connecticut Technology Transfer Center recognizes that many of you work outside in heat, humidity, lightning and thunderstorms. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Weather Service website, an average of 54 people in the United States are killed each year by lightning, and while lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. Being aware of potential risks and following recommended practices can help keep you safer during a lightning event and reduce your chances of being struck. The recommendations detailed below are from the NOAA National Weather Service and the National Lightning Safety Institute.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Plan ahead.** Check your local weather forecast and the forecast for the area in which you will be visiting or working. Monitor a portable weather radio during outdoor activities so you aren’t caught off-guard.

- **Get inside a safe building or safe vehicle.** This is the best option during a lightning storm.
  - A **safe building** is a permanent structure that is fully enclosed, such as a school, home, office building, etc. This does not include car ports, open garages, covered patios, picnic shelters, pavilions, sheds, dugouts, and tents.

Lightning continued on page 4
NEW: SIGN RETROREFLECTOMETER

Night time sign visibility cannot be ignored when reviewing the overall safety of our local roads. MUTCD revisions have brought significant sign retroreflectivity requirements to local agencies. Not all Connecticut municipalities are up to standard. The retroreflectometer on loan through the T2 center will allow municipal highway departments to measure the retroreflectivity of their signs to ensure they are in compliance.

• Unit comes with barcode electronics are built to suit your inventory program!
• The ease of use with the touch screen on the back of the 922 unit will benefit our users
• Retro reflectivity acquisition time is fast!
• Battery is a standard 12V rechargeable
• T2 can generate customized reports based on your data collection
• Substantially rigid carrying case
• Training video accompanies the loaned unit

TRAFFIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT

The Connecticut Technology Transfer Center has recently purchased four state of the art pneumatic traffic monitoring units which are part of our equipment loan program.

SIMPLE SETUP: The units, by MetroCount, are self-contained and ready for use upon pick-up. We provide any and all necessary hardware needed set up the unit. Simply secure the unit and pneumatic tubes to the road and your traffic count has begun.

REPORT PROCESSING: Upon completion of the monitoring, simply return the unit to the Technology Transfer Center. We process all collected data, assemble and customize the report(s), and return them to your agency without delay. Reports available to your agency include completely customizable speed, gap and axle classification reports which can be tailored to report specified information in an easy to use format.

For more information contact:
Scott Zinke
(860) 486 5956
Scott.zinke@engr.uconn.edu
Walter Adametz, Public Works Director for the Town of Killingworth, is also the volunteer Chair of the Public Works Emergency Support Function for Region 2.

Walt, working with his ESF#3 committee members, has diligently submitted proposals for grant funds over the past two years to provide much needed equipment to help local agencies prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Well, it just goes to show you that good things do come to those who persevere.

Here is a summary of equipment that is being delivered to the host towns in the region.

- **CHESHIRE:** Grapple Bucket Rake
- **NORTH HAVEN:** Grapple Bucket Rake
- **KILLINGWORTH:** Grapple Bucket Rake; Message Sign Board Trailer
- **BRANFORD:** Sandbagger and Trailer
- **CHESTER:** Sandbagger and Trailer
- **WEST HAVEN:** Sandbagger and Trailer
- **SAYBROOK:** Emergency Response Trailer
- **NEW HAVEN:** Emergency Response Trailer
- **HADDAM:** Emergency Response Trailer
- **NORTH BRANFORD:** Message Sign Board Trailer

Walt wanted to extend his sincere appreciate to John Field, DEMHS Region 2 Coordinator, Roy Piper (Retired) Region 2 Coordinator, Robert Drozynski, Emergency Management Program Specialist and to Kristin Doundoulakis in Region 4. Through meetings of the statewide Public Works Chairs group, Region 2 was able to benefit from specifications and traffic control trailer logos that had already been developed by Region 4.

Congratulations Region 2 on your success in securing this critical equipment.
T2 Center Helps Local Agencies Comply with new CT DEEP Regulations for Underground Storage Tanks

In compliance with the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct), DEEP has passed and is now implementing amendments to the existing UST Regulations, May 31, 2012 (PDF). The amendments include Operator Training requirements per RCSA 22a-449(d)-108.

To assist local Connecticut agencies meeting these new operator certification requirements, three trainings have been scheduled for September 28, October 5 and October 10th.

For more information regarding lightning safety, visit the National Weather Service’s website at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov or the National Lightning Safety Institute’s website at www.lightningsafety.com. Both of these sites have extensive information on this topic.

Reprinted, in part, with permission from the West Virginia LTAP Center - Country Roads & City Streets, Vol. 27 No. 2.
Congratulations 2012 Creative Solutions Award Winners

Please join us in congratulating the Town of Vernon and District Two of the CT Dept. of Transportation for their winning solutions.

The winning solutions were as follows:

**TOWN OF VERNON - UNDER VEHICLE WASHER**

This inexpensive solution helps get the salt and debris off the underside of Vernon’s fleet.

**CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT TWO – BITUMINOUS ASPHALT TRENCH PAVING BOX**

This solution saves DOT staff a lot of time and improves worker safety.

As a part of our Connecticut Creative Solutions award program, the Technology Transfer Center submitted our winners to the national “Build a Better Mousetrap” competition hosted by the Federal Highway LTAP Clearinghouse.

The winners were announced at our National LTAP conference in Texas in August. The T2 Center staff was very excited to find out the Town of Vernon won second place in the national competition!

During a recent meeting at the Town of Vernon, T2 Program Director, Donna Shea, presented the award to Jeff Schambach, Road Foreman (See above photo).

If you are interested in seeing the other winners in the national competition, you can visit the Build a Better Mousetrap program at: [http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/pdfs/2012%20Mousetrap%20Booklet.pdf](http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/pdfs/2012%20Mousetrap%20Booklet.pdf)

Thank you to our judges - Mark Carlino of Manchester, Tom Hughes of Danbury, Brian Mitchell of West Hartford and Mark Wantroba of CIRMA- for their hard work and support. The winning solutions were highlighted at the 2012 Technology Transfer Expo here in Storrs on September 19th and will receive recognition at this year’s Graduation and Awards Ceremony on October 25th.

Details about this year’s winning entries as well as those from the past are highlighted in our online Creative Solutions Award Guide at [http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/solutionsaward.php](http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/solutionsaward.php)
On September 19th, Mother Nature had a soft spot for the T2 Center and cleared away the torrential rains that soaked the area the day before and provided us with a glorious day for the 11th annual Technology Transfer Expo. The event sponsored and coordinated by the Technology Transfer Center (T2 Center) and the Connecticut Highway and Street Supervisors Association (CHSSA), gathered more than 550 participants. Those in attendance shared in the demonstrations, educational sessions and networking that make this event so popular.

Each year, the T2 Center uses this opportunity to provide educational outreach to state and local transportation professionals on the latest innovations and regulations affecting the transportation community in Connecticut. This year, we had a wide range of educational session topics including an update on the work of the state vegetation taskforce; criteria for selecting your debris management sites; when and how to wear your safety vest; and several presentations on pavement preservation techniques by expo exhibitors. The T2 Center also offered demonstrations on the new Retroreflectometer, the latest addition to the T2 free loan program for local agencies.

Safety is always a theme throughout the event as well. Several exhibitors shared information on the latest in both operational and roadway safety technology, and municipal transportation professionals participated in the Dr. Jack Stephens Memorial Safety Challenge.

THE CHALLENGE WINNERS WERE:
Craig Johnson Town of Bloomfield 1st Place
Joshua Hebert Town of Ellington 2nd Place
Scott Phelan City of Norwalk 3rd Place

Special thanks go out to all the volunteers and exhibitors who helped make this day such a success. We look forward to another great show next year! To learn more about the Expo and the other programs of the Connecticut Technology Transfer Center, visit our website: www.t2center.uconn.edu.
Defensive Driving

70 RULES OF DEFENSIVE DRIVING
Article by Robert Schaller examines the most challenging defensive driving situations and offers tips on how to handle them

CMV WEB-BASED DRIVING TIPS
http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/outreach/education/driverTips/index.htm
US Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website developed for heavy vehicle operators that highlights common driving errors and provides valuable tips for avoiding crashes

CT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER SAFETY POSTERS
Snow Plow Safety
http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/pdfs/CT_Snow%20Plow%20Safety%20Poster.pdf
Safe driving practices when operating a snow plow

Vehicle Safety: Avoiding Backing Accidents
http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/pdfs/CT%20Vehicle%20Safety%20Poster.pdf
Tips on how to avoid collisions while backing vehicles

ROADWAY SAFETY + BROCHURES
Toolbox topics from the road construction industry consortium awareness program
Operator Safety

Runovers: Operators/Drivers

Safe Driving

OSHA CONSTRUCTION E-TOOL
Struck-by Vehicles
Interactive web-based training tool to help identify and control heavy equipment and construction vehicle hazards

Electrical Safety

OSHA E-TOOLS

Electrical Incidents
Web-based training tool to help identify and control the most frequent causes of electrical injuries: contact with power lines, lack of ground-fault protection, missing of discontinuous path to ground, equipment not used in prescribed manner, and improper use of extension/flexible cords

Lockout/Tagout
Web application designed and developed to provide an in-depth understanding of the LOTO standard that includes a tutorial, hot topics and interactive case studies

OSHA FACT SHEETS

Electrical Safety

Lockout/Tagout

OSHA SAFETY AND HEALTH TOPICS

Topic pages include numerous selected OSHA and non-OSHA references

Electrical

Lockout/Tagout

ROADWAY SAFETY + BROCHURE

Electrical Hazards
Toolbox topic from the road construction industry consortium awareness program

Environmental Management

THE MUNICIPAL PRIMER: YOUR GUIDE TO CREATING A “GREEN AND GROWING” COMMUNITY, PUBLIC WORKS
Designed to aid in coordination between municipal public works officials and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), this section of The Municipal Primer includes fact sheets on Waste Materials Management, Stormwater and Municipal Facilities.
Technology Transfer Center Request Form

_____ Please change my address/contact information as indicated below.

_____ Please add this person to the mailing list. ____ Please remove this person

Name: ______________________________________________________________

Title: ________________________________________________________________

Agency/Organization: __________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip:  ________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________  Fax: _________________  e-mail:  _________________

I would like to see a future newsletter article on the topic of: ______________________

I would like to suggest the following future training topics be offered by the T2 Center:
____________________________________________________________________

I would like to request the following informational resource materials:
____________________________________________________________________

Please fax a copy of this form to (860) 486-5718 or mail to:

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