

Technology Transfer



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Congratulations Graduates of 2003!

The Connecticut Technology Transfer Center proudly bestowed certificates to the fifty-four graduates of the Connecticut Road Master Program and the Connecticut Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Program at a ceremonial breakfast on September 10 at the University of Connecticut.

Guest speakers Ernie Blais, Assistant Division Chief of Connecticut Federal Highway Administration, and Charles Drda, Director of Maintenance for the Connecticut Department of Transportation, joined Technology Transfer Center staff in recognizing the graduates' hard work and commitment and congratulating them on their achievements. They were encouraged to continue to learn and enhance their skills for providing a well-maintained safe highway system by taking advantage of the many educational opportunities available through the Center.

Connecticut Road Master Program

Forty-three individuals, comprising the eighth graduating class of the Connecticut Road Master Program, completed the program's series of seven work-

shops. The Connecticut Road Master Program provides transportation and highway personnel with a knowledge of the fundamentals of modern road maintenance management procedures and techniques.

Connecticut Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Program

Eleven individuals, comprising the seventh graduating class of the Connecticut Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Program, completed that program's series of four workshops. The Connecticut Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Program is designed to provide municipal legal traffic authorities with a fundamental knowledge of their powers and responsibilities and a background for dealing with related traffic operations problems.

For more information on the Connecticut Road Master Program, the Connecticut Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Program, or any of the other training programs and services available from the Connecticut Transportation Institute's Technology Transfer Center, please visit our web site at www.cti.uconn.edu or call 860-486-5400.



2003 Municipal Legal Traffic Authority Program Graduates

Daniel Brennan, Town of Monroe

Bob Brinton, Town of Bloomfield

Joseph Dooley, Town of Orange

Mark Hallenbeck, Town of West Hartford

Gerald Hollins, Town of New Milford

Denise Horan, Town of East Hartford

Raymond Kingston, Town of West Hartford

Christopher Loudon, Town of Cheshire

Edward Lougee, Town of Waterford

Kevin Munson, City of Meriden

Philip Pane, Town of Monroe



Guest speakers Charles Drda (l) and Ernie Blais (r) with Technology Transfer Center Director Donna Shea

Technology Transfer

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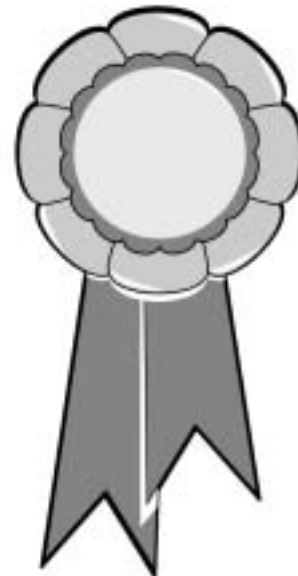
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2003 Connecticut Road Master Program Graduates

Susan Baillargeon, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Joseph Ballek, Town of Colchester
Anthony Basso, Town of Shelton
James Berg, Town of Simsbury
Robert Boutin, City of Bristol
Donald Brigham, Jr., Town of Waterford
Peter Cabelus, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Dennis Chapman, City of New Haven
Luis Crespo, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Joseph DaCunto, Town of Wallingford
Michael Deegan, Town of West Hartford
Richard Esposito, City of New Haven
Anthony Foote, Town of Woodstock
David Froehlich, Town of Woodstock
Steven Froehlich, Town of Woodstock
Andrew Huffman, Town of Simsbury
George Humphrey, Town of Litchfield
John Jones, Town of Colchester
Bruce Kruszewski, Town of Waterford
Mark Lalla, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Ian MacGregor, Town of South Windsor
Frank Martin, Connecticut Department of Transportation
George Nelson, Town of New Milford
Thomas Niedzwiecki, Town of West Hartford
Ira Norton, City of Bristol
Brian O'Connor, Town of West Hartford
Paul Pronovost, Town of Thomaston
Don Remson, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Chris Rossignol, Town of Farmington
Donald Rust, Town of Simsbury
John Savino, City of New Haven
David Sawicki, Connecticut Department of Transportation
William Selavka, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Patrick Smith, Connecticut Department of Transportation
David Somers, Town of New Milford
William Sperrazza, Town of Enfield
Michael Spielman, Town of South Windsor
Gordon Spink, Jr., Town of Woodstock
Matthew Taricani, Town of New Britain
Richard Theriaque, Town of Windham
Fred Tuccinardi, City of Stamford
Edward Whipple, Town of Groton
William Wiley, Town of New Milford



Safety During Winter Operations

As a professional snowfighter, your safety becomes ultra-important. You are out in that winter storm because the roads are unsafe for driving. You are the one that is making the roads safe for all the motorists who need to get to work, need to carry out essential emergency operations, or just need to continue on their life's journey.

Safety should be your #1 priority. Overall safety during winter operations involves crew safety, material safety, vehicle and equipment safety, facility safety and operations safety. You need to constantly think safe and act safe so that you will be safe. It's the winning combination for safe winter operations.

Crew Safety

The first item is adequate sleep or rest prior to starting work. Plowing and spreading can mean long hours, leaving you tired and exhausted. Proper sleep or rest prior to beginning this task will keep you awake and alert with safety remaining important.

The next item is warm clothes. Multiple layers of warm clothing give you the advantage of being able to adjust to changing temperatures or conditions. Driving in the truck cab can be quite different than being out of the truck adjusting or repairing the equipment.

Other personal protective equipment that is needed include a hard hat with liner, a safety vest, safety shoes, boots, and gloves. In addition, a well-stocked first-aid kit should be in the cab. And don't forget a thermos and lunch box, particularly for those long rural routes requiring several hours away from any convenient pit stop.



For your winter emergency survival kit, include a flashlight with extra batteries, ice scraper/snow brush, jumper cables and basic tool kit, flares or reflectors, flags for traffic control, shovel and sand or other material to aid in traction.

And every truck cab should be equipped with a fire extinguisher. Checking the pressure status of the extinguisher as a routine checklist item could prevent a unsafe situation.

Material Safety

Handling abrasives, salt and other chemicals need not be hazardous, if you know what you are handling, and follow common sense requirements for personal protection. All chemical manufacturers are required to have a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each of their products. These sheets are required by law to be available to the user, and the safe user will be familiar with all the information on these sheets and have a copy in the truck cab. Everything you need

to know about the chemical is included in the MSDS. The manufacturer's name, address, and telephone number; identification numbers for the chemical, a list of the major components of the chemical, its characteristics and reactivity with other materials, requirements for personal protective clothing and equipment needed in handling the chemical, and emergency procedures in case of exposure or a spill.

Unless you're the loader operator, you should be inside the truck cab when your truck is being loaded. This action will prevent you from being in the path of any spilled materials during the loading operation.

Vehicle and Equipment Safety

Preventive maintenance is safety. Good preventive maintenance insures the vehicle will operate with optimum performance and less breakdowns resulting in safer operation. Of course, you, as operator, are a responsible part of the preventive maintenance program. The daily

checks and pre-trip inspection you make on your truck are important at any time. Relative to winter operations, however, we'll deal only with some major points for safety. Checking fluid levels, tire tread and inflation, brakes, windshield wipers and wiper blades, heater, defroster are all safety checks. Yes, even the heater relates to safety. If the heater is not working properly and you are too cold or too hot, your total concentration will not be on fighting the storm, making you less safe in operations. Your pre-trip inspection should include clean windows and mirrors, again a safety necessity.

Check all lights! You will need all lights when plowing and spreading. You are out there because of unsafe conditions. Lights are not only for you to see, they are for you to be seen!

Back-up alarm, plow flags, and warning signs on the rear of the truck are good safety items for you and others in preventing accidents.

Radio communications are a necessity for efficient operations

but are also a necessity for safety. Every truck should be required to have a mobile radio for communications.

With a full fuel tank, and a final walk around inspection, your last safety practice when you climb into the cab before driving off is to buckle up. The use of your safety belt should become a habit, a natural action prior to turning the key in the ignition. When that plow hits that raised manhole, you will realize the value of the safety belt habit.

Facility Safety

Your maintenance facility or garage can become a safety hazard if not maintained properly. Good housekeeping within and around the facility results in a safe working environment for everyone. Having a well-lit facility and keeping tools and equipment put away when not in use is essential to safety. Keeping the floors clean and free of grease, oil, and debris also lends to a safe facility.

Operations Safety

You already know how to drive a truck. But if you are a new snowfighter, practicing with a plow and a loaded spreader could be very beneficial. The extra weight and the different center of gravity gives a whole new feel to the 'monster' that you will be operating in adverse unsafe road conditions.

Know your truck and equipment. Know your safe backing rules. Do the circle of safety, back slowly, back straight, and use an outside guide if possible. Backing accidents number more than any other type of accident in our road maintenance operations. A backup alarm should be standard on all equipment.

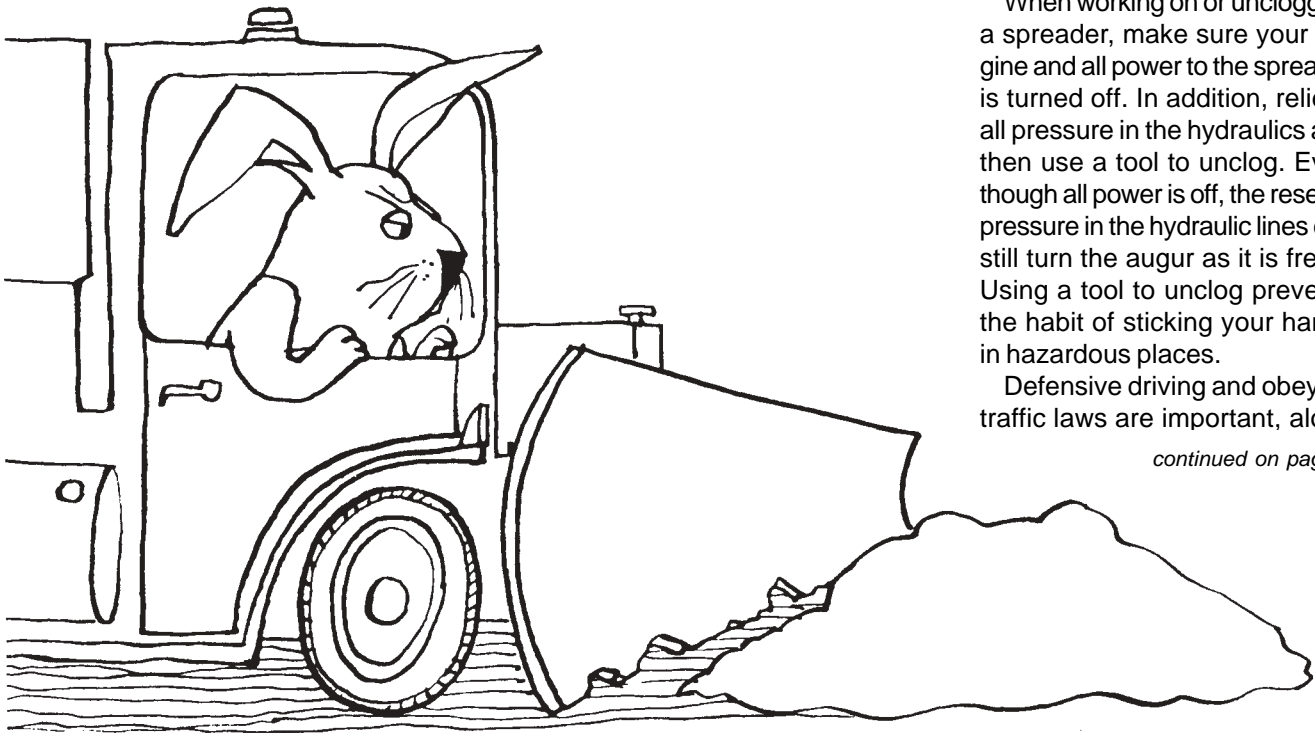
If you are spreading material and running with your truck bed up, the bottom of the truck bed should not be higher than the top of the cab. And watch for overhead wires and tree limbs.

When changing plow blades, raise the plow and block it securely before proceeding to loosen bolts. Never place yourself under the blade or in an unsafe position.

When working on or unclogging a spreader, make sure your engine and all power to the spreader is turned off. In addition, relieve all pressure in the hydraulics and then use a tool to unclog. Even though all power is off, the reserve pressure in the hydraulic lines can still turn the auger as it is freed. Using a tool to unclog prevents the habit of sticking your hands in hazardous places.

Defensive driving and obeying traffic laws are important, along

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Technology Transfer EXPO 2003

Six hundred fifty attendees joined us at the University of Connecticut's Depot Campus on September 17 to see and learn about the latest innovations in public works equipment, materials and technologies at the 2003 Technology Transfer EXPO.

This year's event, annually hosted by the University of Connecticut's Technology Transfer Center and the Connecticut Street Highway Supervisor Association (CHSSA), featured a record number of exhibitors. Eight-three public service agencies, professional organizations and vendors provided information on their services, products and equipment and presented hands-on demonstrations throughout the day.

Sixteen municipal public works employees put their knowledge and skills to the test at the second annual EXPO Challenge in competition for the best overall score in Backhoe Operation, OSHA Safety, Call Before You Dig, and Work Zone Safety.

Congratulations to the winners, all from the Town of South Windsor, who swept the top three prizes:

1st Place
Mike Hurlburt

2nd Place
Mike Spielman

3rd Place
Rob Hunt

Our sincere thanks to all the exhibitors who made this year's event such a success and especially to those that generously donated the many terrific items for door prize drawings:

- 3M Traffic Control Materials Division
- Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
- Agresource
- Applied Industrial Technologies
- Arrow Equipment Rental and Sales
- Artco Equipment Sales
- Atlantic Broom Service, Inc.
- Atlantic Detroit Diesel - Allison
- Atlantic States Rural Water & Waste Water Association
- Bacher Corp. of Connecticut
- BART Truck Equipment Co., Inc.
- Bear Com
- Bigson II DBA Equipment Service Co.
- Bobcat of Connecticut Inc.
- Bridge Haven Trucks
- C.N. Wood of Connecticut, LLC
- Call Before You Dig, Inc.
- Capitol Rentals
- Carey Wiping Materials Corp.
- CESCO
- CIRMA
- Clearwater Technology Inc.
- Concrete Systems, Inc.
- Connecticut Cleaning and Heating Equipment
- Connecticut Department of Transportation
- Connecticut Highway Street Supervisor Association
- Connecticut Tree Warden Association
- Connecticut Technology Transfer Center
- CUES, Inc.
- D.D. Gregory & Son
- Dave Grigsby Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC
- Don Mallon Chevrolet Oldsmobile Cadillac
- East Coast Sign & Supply, Inc.
- East P.B.E. Inc.
- EPPCO
- Federal Highway Administration Connecticut Division
- Force America Inc.
- Franklin Paint Co., Inc.
- Freightliner of Hartford, Inc.
- Gabrielli Truck Sales of CT, LLC



The 2003 Technology Transfer EXPO Challenge Winners

- Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming
- Genalco, Inc.
- GIANT-VAC
- Gorman Bros. Inc.
- Hedge & Matheis
- Hudson Liquid Asphalt Company
- Industrial Safety & Supply
- Jamieson Distributors, Inc.
- Jasper Engines and Transmissions
- Kahn Tractor & Equipment, Inc.
- LinksPoint
- New England Municipal Equipment Co.
- Nicard Enterprises LLC
- Nutmeg International Trucks
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Park City Truck Equipment
- Pete's Tire Barn
- QPR/LaFarge
- Reed Systems, Ltd.
- Reflexite Americas
- Road Solutions Inc.
- Ro-Brand Products
- Rock Rubber & Supply, Inc.
- RPM Inc.
- S & D Supply, LLC
- Safety Klean
- Safetytown
- Sanitary Equipment Company
- SEACO
- Signal 54 Training
- Snap-On Tools
- St. Jacques Family Enterprises, Inc.
- Streetworks, Inc.
- The W.I. Clark Company
- Tri-County Contractor's Supply, Inc.
- Tri-State Diesel, Inc.
- Tyler Equipment
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Vasso Systems, Inc.
- W.H. Rose, Inc.
- W.I. Clark Co.
- Welder Training Services
- Whelen



Aerial view of a few of the 2003 EXPO exhibitors

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with wearing your safety belt. Do not speed. Speed kills. And remember to keep enough distance in front of you for adequate stopping distance. The extra size and weight of your vehicle and the road conditions will necessitate a substantially greater stopping distance than you normally need.

Be aware of fatigue. Long hours of plowing and spreading can be exhausting. Know your own limitations. Twelve hour shifts are common, especially if crews are working 'round-the-clock' with twelve on and twelve off. Everyone needs a break – either a short coffee break or a rest/sleep break. And it can differ from one person to another. One individual

may plow 12 hours without a break or with only a coffee break, while someone else can only go a few hours between breaks. Supervisors should recognize that all individuals are different and snowfighters should know their limitations. Cooperation between supervisors and snowfighters is essential in this area for safe operations.

One last factor – keep cool, anger clouds judgment! Even if residents are out waving their snow shovels and yelling at you, maintain your cool and stay safe.

Excerpted from *Think-Act-Be Safe: Safe Winter Operations for Professional Snowfighters*, Salt Institute, 2000.

New 2003 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Now Available

Visit the MUTCD web site at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/> for a downloadable version and information on how to purchase hard copies.



SEASONS GREETINGS



*Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year
from all of us at the Technology Transfer Center*



Donna



Mary



Stephanie



Naomi



Lori



Deborah



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179 MIDDLE TURNPIKE

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