

**Safety awards announced  
for ODOT divisions, crews**  
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*Oklahoma Department of Transportation*

## Information Release



*Public Affairs Division, 200 N. E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 (405) 521-2554*

To those who construct, maintain and repair our roads, bridges and interstates, workplace safety is a top priority.

At the Monday, April 7 Transportation Commission meeting, Lt. Governor Jari Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley awarded those who excelled in upholding current safety practices and pursuing advances in safety throughout the past year.

Each year, ODOT presents safety awards to employee groups that have demonstrated a continued commitment to safety and have shown great improvement in safety practices.

Since ODOT's safety awards began nearly 20 years ago, there has been a 73 percent decrease in the total number of employee injury accidents, saving the state approximately \$400,000 a year in workers compensations claims, with a more than \$2.7 million savings in the last five years alone.

The Governor's Safety Excellence Award is presented to the field division that has the best overall safety record over the past year. This year's award went to Division Two, headquartered in Antlers, which is made up of Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg and Pushmataha counties. David Smith is the division engineer.

The Progressive Excellence Award, which is presented to the ODOT field division that has improved its safety the most during the past year, was presented to Division Three, headquartered in Ada. The division improved its safety score 57 percent from last year. The division is made up of Coal, Cleveland, 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 division and its Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record:

- Division One, Cherokee County, Jeff Perry, superintendent
- Division Two, Madill Residency, Jerry Eldridge, resident engineer
- Division Three, Purcell Residency, Red Raley, resident engineer
- Division Four, Division Wide Bridge Crew 412B, John Green, superintendent
- Division Five, Clinton Shop, Jeanette Allen, superintendent
- Division Six, Harper County, Steve Myatt, superintendent
- Division Seven, Duncan Residency, Jerry Harwell, resident engineer
- Division Eight, Pawnee County, Dennis Walker, superintendent
- Oklahoma City Headquarters, Central Sign Shop, Nick Guerriero, shop manager

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