



Excellence in safety garners awards for ODOT divisions, crews

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Workplace safety is always a top priority, but when you work with traffic speeding by at 60 miles per hour merely feet away, it becomes especially important to take safety precautions and watch out for your fellow worker. To those who construct, maintain and repair our roads, bridges and interstates, a simple mistake or misstep can have tragic consequences.

At Monday's meeting of the Transportation Commission, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley handed out awards to those who demonstrated a continued commitment to safety and have shown great improvement in safety practices this past year.

Since ODOT's safety awards began more than 20 years ago, the total number of employee injury accidents has declined over 77 percent.

The Governor's Safety Excellence Award is presented to the field division with the best overall safety record in the past year. This year's award went to Division Six, which had the lowest lost time per accident and lowest incident frequency and severity rates than any other division.

Division Six, headquartered in Buffalo, consists of Alfalfa, Beaver, Cimarron, Ellis, Harper, Major, Texas, Woods and Woodward counties, and Robert Ward is the Division Engineer.

The Progressive Excellence Award, which is presented to the ODOT field division that has improved its safety rating the most during the past year, was awarded to Division Five, headquartered in Clinton. The division improved its safety performance 65 percent from last year. Division Five consists of Beckham, Blaine, Custer, Dewey, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Tillman and Washita counties, and Brent Almquist is the Division Engineer.

The Director's Safety Awards were 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, Sallisaw Residency
- Division Two, Latimer County Maintenance Crew
- Division Three, McClain County Maintenance Crew
- Division Four, Oklahoma City Residency
- Division Five, Tillman County Maintenance Crew
- Division Six, Traffic Crew
- Division Seven, Jefferson County Maintenance Crew
- Division Eight, Pawnee County Maintenance Crew
- Oklahoma City Headquarters, Communications Branch
- Oklahoma City Headquarters, Notable Mention, Independent Assurance Branch, which has over 1,000,000 miles driven accident free.

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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

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Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Governor's Safety Excellence Award to Division 6 Division Engineer Robert Ward at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. The Governor's Safety Excellence Award is presented to the field division which had the best overall safety record in the past year. Division Six, headquartered in Buffalo, consists of Alfalfa, Beaver, Cimarron, Ellis, Harper, Major, Texas, Woods and Woodward counties. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Six Member Bruce Benbrook, Ward, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Progressive Excellence Award to Division Five Engineer Brent Almquist at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. The Progressive Excellence Award, presented to the ODOT field division which has improved its safety record the most during the past year, was awarded to Division Five which raised its safety performance 85 percent from last year. Division Five consists of Beckham, Blaine, Custer, Dewey, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Tillman and Washita counties. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Almquist, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Carl Edwards of the Sallisaw Residency at the April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit with the best safety record in each of ODOT's eight field division and its Oklahoma City headquarters.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Ronnie Spears of the Latimer County Maintenance Crew at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Spears, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Raymond Riggle of the McClain County Maintenance Crew at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Riggle, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley.. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Terry Howell of Oklahoma City Residency at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Howell, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley.. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Reynolds Toney of the Independent Assurance Branch, at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. The Independent Assurance Branch has had over 1,000,000 miles driven accident free. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Tony, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Kip Smith of the Central Office Communications Branch at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Smith, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Ted Hollandsworth of the Tillman County Maintenance Crew at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Five Member Loyd Benson, Hollandsworth, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Terry England of the Division 6 Traffic Crew at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Six Member Bruce Benbrook, England, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Chris Hartman of the Jefferson County Maintenance Crew at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to right are, Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Seven Member Brad Burgess, Hartman, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley. 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.



Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins presents the Director's Safety Award to Willard Wilkins of the Pawnee County Maintenance Crew at the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting. Also pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Eight Member Pete Regan, Wilkins, Askins and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Directory Gary Ridley. 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.



At the Monday, April 16 Transportation Commission meeting, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Lt. Gov. Jari Askins presented safety awards to employee crews and divisions who have demonstrated a continued commitment to safety and have shown great improvement in safety practices in 2009. ODOT Safety Awards presenters and recipients were (left to right) Terry England, Division 6 Traffic Crew; Ronnie Spears, Latimer County Maintenance Crew; Willard Wilkins, Pawnee County Maintenance Crew; Brent Almquist, Division 5 Engineer; Askins; Reynolds Toney, Independent Assurance Branch; Robert Ward, Division 6 Engineer; Carl Edwards, Adair Sallisaw Residency; Terry Howell, Oklahoma City Residency; Ted Hollandsworth, Tillman County Maintenance Crew; Raymond Riggle, McClain County Maintenance Crew; Chris Hartman, Jefferson County Maintenance Crew; Kip Smith, Central Office Communications Branch; Mike Bracken, ODOT safety manager and ODOT Director Gary Ridley.