



**Excellence in safety garners awards for ODOT divisions, crews**  
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**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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Safety in the workplace is always a top priority, but it becomes especially important when your workplace consists of traffic cones and 60 mile per hour traffic. To those who construct, maintain and repair our roads, bridges and interstates, a moment of distraction or a simple mistake may have tragic consequences.

In the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's history, 56 employees have been killed in the line of duty, more than any other state agency in Oklahoma.

At Monday's meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb and ODOT Director Gary Ridley 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 over 75 percent, in addition to a 25 percent reduction in just that last 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 54 percent compared to the previous year. Total accidents, accident severity and lost work days are all taken into consideration. In addition to a plaque recognizing Division Two, this year's Governor's Safety Award winner is also being given a traffic cone trailer to make setting up and taking down work zones safer and faster.

Division Two, headquartered in Antlers, consists of Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Latimer, LeFlore, Marshall, McCurtain, Pittsburgh, and Pushmataha Counties and Anthony Echelle is the new 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 One, headquartered in Muskogee. The division improved its safety performance 58 percent from last year. Division One consists of Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, and Wagoner counties, and Darren Saliba 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, Cherokee County Maintenance Crew
- Division Two, Madill Residency
- Division Three, Johnson County Maintenance Crew
- Division Four, El Reno Residency
- Division Five, Clinton Residency
- Division Six, Guymon Residency
- Division Seven, Div. 7 Sign & Centerline Crews
- Division Eight, Tulsa Residency
- Oklahoma City Headquarters, Communications Branch

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







Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Governor's Safety Excellence Award to ODOT Division Two Engineer Anthony Echelle at the April 2 Transportation Commission meeting. The award is presented to the field division which had the best overall safety record over the past year. Division Two increased its safety performance by 54 percent compared to the previous year. In addition to a plaque recognizing Division Two, this year's winner also received a traffic cone trailer to make setting up and taking down work zones safer and faster. Division Two, headquartered in Antlers, consists of Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, Latimer, LeFlore, Marshall, McCurtain, Pittsburgh and Pushmataha counties. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman David Burrage, Echelle, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley



Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Progressive Excellence Award to Division One Construction Engineer Mark Majors at the April 2 Transportation Commission meeting. The Progressive Excellence Award, given to the ODOT field division which has improved its safety record the most during the past year, was awarded to Division One which raised its safety performance 58 percent from last year. Division One consists of Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, and Wagoner counties. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Majors, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.





At the Monday, April 4 Transportation Commission meeting, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presented safety awards to Oklahoma Department of Transportation employee crews and divisions who have demonstrated a continued commitment to safety and have shown great improvement in safety practices in 2011. Safety Awards presenters and recipients are (left to right); Jerry Eldridge, Madill Residency Manager; Mark Majors, Division 2 Construction Engineer; Jeff Perry, Cherokee County Maintenance Crew Superintendent; Randy Greer, Clinton Residency Manager; Kevin Harner, Johnston County Maintenance Superintendent; Lamb; Robert Riggs, Div.7 Sign and Centerline Crew Superintendent; Anthony Echelle, Division Two Engineer; Kip Smith, ODOT Communications Branch; Shawn Davis, El Reno Residency Manager; Ashley Hawkins, Div. 2 Area Maintenance Engineer, Charles Michael, Guymon Residency Manager; Bruce Arnold, Tulsa Residency Manager; Tom Love, Transportation Commission Chairman; Mike Bracken, ODOT Safety Manager and ODOT Director Gary Ridley.



Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Jeff Perry of the Cherokee County Maintenance Crew, at the April 2 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the ODOT crew with the best safety record in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Perry, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.





Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Jerry Eldridge of the Madill Residency, at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman David Burrage, Eldridge, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.



Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Kevin Harner of the Johnston County Maintenance Crew at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission Member Dan Overland, Harner, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.





Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Shawn Davis of the El Reno Residency at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Davis, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.





Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Randy Greer of the Clinton Residency at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission Secretary Todd Huckabay, Greer, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.



Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Charles Michael of the Guymon Residency at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission District 6 Member Bobby Alexander, Michael, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.





Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Robert Riggs of the Div.7 Sign and Centerline Crew at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Transportation Commission District 7 Member Brad Burgess, Riggs, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.



Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Bruce Arnold of the Tulsa Residency at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Arnold, Lamb, Transportation Commission District 8 Member Pete Regan, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.





Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presents the Director's Safety Award to Kip Smith of the Oklahoma City based ODOT Communication Branch at the April 2 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 divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters. Pictured left to right are Transportation Commission Chairman Tom Love, Smith, Lamb and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley.