



## Excellence in safety garners awards for ODOT divisions, crews

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

In ODOT's 100 year history, which it is commemorating throughout 2011, 54 ODOT employees have been killed in the line of duty, more than any other state agency in Oklahoma

At Monday's meeting of the Transportation Commission, Gov. Mary Fallin 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 each year to the ODOT field division with the best overall safety record in the past year. This year's award went to Division Five, which increased its safety performance record by 95 percent compared to the previous year and had only one lost time accident in over 370,000 work hours. Total accidents, lost time accidents, accident severity and lost work days are all taken into consideration. In addition to a plaque recognizing Division Five, 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 Five, headquartered in Clinton, consists of Beckham, Blaine, Custer, Dewey, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Tillman and Washita counties, and Brent Almquist 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 One, headquartered in Muskogee. The division improved its safety performance 78 percent from last year. Division One consists of Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, and Wagoner counties, and Darin Saliba 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, Adair County Maintenance Crew
- Division Two, Latimer County Maintenance Crew
- Division Three, McClain County Maintenance Crew
- Division Four, Noble County Maintenance Crew
- Division Five, Altus Residency
- Division Six, Alfalfa County Maintenance Crew
- Division Seven, Murray County Maintenance Crew
- Division Eight, Nowata County Maintenance Crew
- Oklahoma City Headquarters, Central Garage

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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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Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Brooks Billings of the Adair County Maintenance Crew at the April 4 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 Ridley, Billings, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Ronnie Morris of the Atoka County Maintenance Crew at the Monday, April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. 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. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman James Dunegan, Morris, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Raymond Riggle of the McClain County Maintenance Crew at the Monday, April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Also pictured left to right are Ridley, Riggle, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Bill Graef, of the Noble County Maintenance Crew at the April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Transportation Commission District Four Member Jackie Cooper, Graef, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Jerry Clement of the Altus Residency, at the Monday, April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Five Member Loyd Benson, Clement, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Mark King of the Alfalfa County Maintenance Crew at the April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Six Member Bruce Benbrook, King, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Denny Boyd of the Murray County Maintenance Crew at the April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are, Ridley, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Seven Member Brad Burgess, Boyd, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Glen Snaveky of the Nowata County Maintenance Crew at the April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Eight Member Pete Regan, Snaveky, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Director's Safety Award to Neldon McDaniel of the ODOT Central Garage, at the April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The Director's Safety Awards are presented to the unit in each of ODOT's eight field divisions and the Oklahoma City headquarters with the best safety record. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Oklahoma Transportation Commission district Four Member Jackie Cooper, McDaniel, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Progressive Excellence Award to Division One Engineer Darren Saliba at the April 4 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 78 percent from last year. Division One consists of Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, and Wagoner counties. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Saliba, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presents the Governor's Safety Excellence Award to Division 5 Division Engineer Brent Almquist at the April 4 Transportation Commission meeting. The award is presented to the field division which had the best overall safety record in the past year. Division Five increased its safety performance record by 95 percent compared to the previous year. In addition to a plaque recognizing Division Five, this year's winner was also given a traffic cone trailer to make setting up and taking down work zones safer and faster. Division Five, headquartered in Clinton, consists of Beckham, Blaine, Custer, Dewey, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Tillman and Washita counties. Pictured left to right are Ridley, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District Five Member Loyd Benson, Almquist, Transportation Commission Chairman Dan Overland and ODOT Safety Manager Mike Bracken.



At the Monday, April 4 Transportation Commission meeting, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley 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 2010. ODOT Safety Awards presenters and recipients are (left to right); Ridley; Brooks Billings, Adair County Maintenance Crew; Mark King, Alfalfa County Maintenance Crew; Glen Snively, Nowata County Maintenance Crew; Bill Graef, Noble County Maintenance Crew; Denny Boyd, Murray County Maintenance Crew; Neldon McDaniel, ODOT Central Garage; Jerry Clement, Altus Residency; Ronnie Morris, Atoka County Maintenance Crew; Raymond Riggle, McClain County Maintenance Crew and Mike Bracken, ODOT safety manager.