



Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program

Quarterly News & Updates

Winter 2024/2025 | Issue 13

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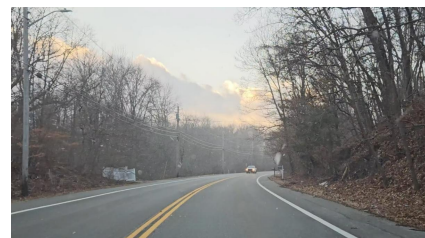
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Winter Welcome

As winter settles across the Ocean State, we're excited to bring you the latest updates, resources, and support from the Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program. This season, we're focusing on helping our communities stay safe, informed, and prepared for the challenges winter weather can bring.



In this issue, you'll find updates on upcoming training sessions, 2024 training highlights, and important resources for winter maintenance and road safety. Our team is committed to providing the training, resources, and technical assistance you need to ensure Rhode Island's local roads and transportation network are well-equipped to thrive, no matter the season.

Thank you for being part of the RI LTAP community. We look forward to continuing our work together as we enter the new year. Stay warm, stay safe, and let us know how we can support you during this winter season!

Winter Maintenance & Road Safety



As winter weather sets in, public works professionals play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and functionality of local roads and transportation networks. Below are some key winter maintenance tips and road safety guidelines to help you prepare and respond effectively during this season:

1. Pre-Storm Preparation

- Check Equipment: Inspect snowplows, salt spreaders, and other winter tools for proper operation
- Stock Supplies: Ensure you have enough salt, sand (if used), and de-icing materials.
- Train Staff: Review safety protocols and operational procedures for winter weather
- Pre-Treat: When and where appropriate, pretreat roads before the snow starts to fall

2. Snow and Ice Removal

- Plowing: Start early, and plow frequently to prevent packed snow; Prioritize high-traffic routes first
- Salt vs. Sand: Know your protocol for when to use salt, sand, or other materials

3. Monitor Weather and Adjust Operations

- Stay informed with weather updates and adjust your plowing and salting efforts as conditions change

4. Road Safety

- Visibility: Use clear signage and reduce speed limits where necessary
- Clear Intersections: Ensure high-traffic areas, intersections, and crosswalks remain clear of snow and ice

5. Prevent Slips and Falls

- Keep sidewalks and public entrances free of snow and ice, using sand or salt to prevent accidents
- If you're shoveling by hand, ensure you have the right gear and tools to do so safely
- When treating roads, be mindful of pedestrian pathways; Keep pedestrian crosswalks clear and ensure that snow piles do not obstruct walkways

6. Post-Storm Cleanup

- Clear drains, inspect for damage, and address remaining hazards like ice patches

7. Crew Safety

- Ensure you and your team wear proper winter gear, take regular breaks, and operate equipment safely to avoid fatigue

By staying proactive and following these winter maintenance tips, public works professionals can ensure roads are safer and more navigable during winter months, helping to protect the community and maintain an efficient transportation network. Stay safe and stay prepared!

Staying ahead of the storm takes work and the right tools. There are many weather apps out there and forecasts are available from local news stations. Some weather apps are free such as Accu Weather and Weather Underground while others are paid including WeatherBug and Carrot Weather. What app do you use? Email RI LTAP with the name of your favorite weather app. We'll round up your answers and share them. Email dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov today and share your favorite!

Check out these resources for additional winter weather, maintenance, and road safety:

- RI Department of Transportation
 - [Staying Safe on the Roads in Winter](#)

- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service
 - [NOAA Weather Radio](#)
 - [Weather-Ready Nation](#)
 - [Winter Weather Safety Tips](#)
- National Weather Service (NWS) - Boston/Norton Southern New England Office
 - [Winter Safety](#)
- Ready.gov
 - [Disasters and Emergencies: Winter Weather](#)

Updates From Rhode Island LTAP

2024 Training in Review

ATSSA Flagger Certification



CPR, AED, & First Aid

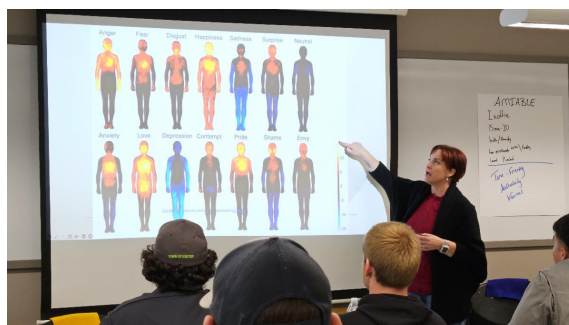
Chainsaw Safety



CPR, AED, & First Aid



Dealing with Difficult People, Conversations, & More!



Microsoft Excel



Snow & Ice Control



Thank you to each and every one of you who participated in classes offered by the Rhode Island LTAP in 2024 and a big thank you to each of our wonderful hosts!

Each participant, host, and every person we had the pleasure of communicating with throughout 2024 were invaluable in helping us deliver essential training, resources, and support to local transportation professionals across Rhode Island.

We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Upcoming Training



Seats are now available for Rhode Island City, Town, and Tribe partners for the below Winter 2025 classes. These live classes are a mix of in-person and virtual.

To enroll in any of these courses or if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact the Rhode Island LTAP at dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov. To register a participant, email Rhode Island LTAP and indicate the course name and date as well as the person's full first and last name, email address, job title, and phone number.

Is there a training, tailgate talk, or technical assistance you're interested in, but haven't seen advertised? RI municipalities and the Narragansett Indian Tribe can submit a request to Rhode Island LTAP. Just complete this [Request Form](#) and email it to us!

NHI-310065: **Risk Management**

In-Person
Tue., February 3 and
Wed., February 4, 2025
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

CPR, AED, & First Aid

In-Person
Tue., March 25, 2025
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

CPR, AED, & First Aid

In-Person
Wed., March 26, 2025
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Available On-Demand Courses

There are currently over 460 courses available for our Rhode Island LTAP partners in the RI Learning Center, the State's Online Learning Management System. See the list below for a sampling of new courses!

If you are interested in viewing these or other available on-demand courses in the RILearning Center, and you are a Rhode Island municipal employee or elected official, Narragansett Indian Tribe employee, or are an FHWA employee contact us at dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov to set up an account.

Winter Operations

- Anti-Icing/RWIS: Introduction to Anti-icing and Winter Maintenance
- Anti-icing/RWIS: Winter Road Maintenance Management
- Anti-icing/RWIS: Winter Roadway Hazards & the Principles of Overcoming Them
- Anti-icing/RWIS: Weather Basics
- Anti-Icing/RWIS: Weather & Roadway Monitoring for Anti-icing Decisions
- Anti-Icing/RWIS: Computer Access to Road Weather Information
- Blowing Snow Mitigation
- Equipment Maintenance
- Performance Measures for Snow and Ice Control Operation
- Proper Plowing Techniques

Rhode Island Public Works Academy

Congratulations Grads!



Congratulations to the 2024 Fall Public Works Academy graduates! Over the course of 6 weeks, Academy participants met for a total of 7 classes designed to provide the core competencies necessary to be a public works professional.

This Academy which ran from Tuesday, September 24th through Wednesday, November 13th, was a joint collaboration of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and the Rhode Island Public Works Association (RIPWA).

Congratulations again to our graduates!

Academy Participants:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| • Aidan Robinson | • Daniel Mercier | • Rich Gaboriault |
| • Aiden Pina | • Kenneth Cabral | • Ryan Bergantino |
| • Billy Zambarano | • Kevin Delgado-Caceres | • Ryan Morris |
| • Christopher Mangan | • Michael Rossi | • Ryan Silvia |
| • Cody White (not pictured) | • Nicholas Valente | • Steve Ferrandi |
| • Craig Fernandes | • Paul Manzi | • Teddy Whitely |

Upcoming Observances & Safety Events

January

- National Radon Action Month
- Home Office Safety and Security Week
- National Passenger Safety Week

February

- American Heart Month
- Black History Month
- National Burn Awareness Week

March

- Workplace Eye Wellness Month
 - Flood Safety Month
 - Brain Injury Awareness Month
 - Women's History Month
 - Vehicle Safety Recalls Week
-

Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Email us: dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov
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