



Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program

Quarterly News & Updates

Spring 2025 | Issue 14

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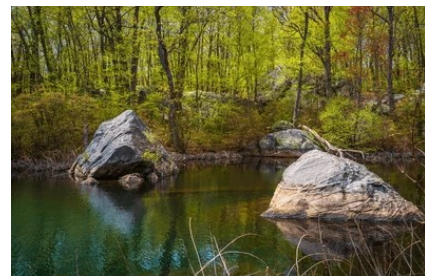
Spring Welcome

Spring has erupted across the Northeast, and with it, the Rhode Island LTAP has exciting new classes, a new Public Works Academy session, and a brand new Rhode Scholar Program!

And, as the weather warms up, days get a little longer, and our green spaces begin to burst with color, people are eager to spend more time outdoors, meaning we will see

an increase in motorists and pedestrians on the roads. Of the many safety observances coming up over the next few months, we begin April 21-25 with National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW), and the timing couldn't be better since many more work zones are popping up during the Spring construction season than there were just 4 to 6 weeks ago. NWZAW serves as a reminder to the traveling public to be aware of, more cautious in, and slow down in and around work zones.

With so many exciting learning opportunities springing up this season, we would like to remind our local transportation workforce that we are here to help grow and expand your knowledge. Some of the classes you'll see are Maintenance Welding Basics, Infrastructure Asset Management, Bloodborne Pathogens, and a new hands-on Work Zone Safety class, just to name a few. Read on to see what's new, what safety observances are coming up, and how



Updates From Rhode Island LTAP

NEW! Rhode Scholar Program

Local municipal and tribal agencies in Rhode Island, responsible for maintaining streets and roads, are entrusted with ensuring these roads are safe, well-constructed, and properly maintained. Employees must be trained not only on the basics of construction and maintenance, but they must also stay current in the latest practices. As budgets are always tight, cities and towns must provide this training efficiently and cost-effectively.

The Rhode Scholar Program, administered by Rhode Island's Local Technical Assistance Program (RI LTAP), allows local transportation agencies access to high-quality training for their employees at no cost.

To become a designated Rhode Scholar, each participant must complete 8 courses and workshops. After each course, participants receive a certificate of completion. Upon completion of the program requirements, participants are presented with a plaque. Many of the classes have multiple dates to choose from, with the first class offered on June 26, 2025, and the culminating class occurring on December 3, 2025.

Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks. Have questions? Please feel free to reach out to the Rhode Island LTAP by email at dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov.

Upcoming Training

Seats are now available for Rhode Island City, Town, and Tribe partners for the Spring 2025 classes below. These live classes are all in-person.

To enroll in any of these courses or if you have questions, please 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!



Chainsaw Safety

In-Person
Thu., May 1, 2025
7:30 am - 2:00 pm

Maintenance Welding

Basics

In-Person
Thu., May 8, 2025
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Flagger

In-Person

Maintenance Welding

Basics

In-Person
Tue., May 6, 2025
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Infrastructure Asset

Management

In-Person
Thu., May 8, 2025
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Confined Space

Entry Awareness

Maintenance Welding

Basics

In-Person
Wed., May 7, 2025
7:30 am - 3:00 pm

Bloodborne Pathogens

In-Person
Thu., May 29, 2025
9:00 am - 11:00 am
OR
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Hands-on

Work Zone Traffic Control

Available On-Demand Courses

There are currently over 450 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 RLearning Center, and you are a Rhode Island municipal employee or elected official, Narragansett Indian Tribe employee, or an FHWA employee, contact us at dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov to set up an account.

- Construction Safety Academy (AASHTO online)
 - Crane Safety
 - Confined Spaces
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Material and Personnel Hoists
 - Recognition and Avoidance of Unsafe Conditions
 - Scaffolding Safety
 - Working Safely in Work Zones
- StormwaterOne: Awareness (Level 1)
- Common Stormwater Violations & Tips to Avoid Them
- Dig Safe 101: What You Need to Know

Rhode Island Public Works Academy Spring 2025



The Rhode Island Public Works Academy is an introductory-level training program designed for new public works hires. The R.I. Public Works Academy is a collaboration of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and the Rhode Island Public Works Association (RIPWA).

The program consists of seven (7) sessions that will provide the core competencies necessary to be a public works professional. Participants are required to attend and complete all seven sessions to graduate from the Academy. These seven sessions cover the following topics:

1. Dealing with Difficult People
2. Flagging Certification

Rhode Island Public Works Academy
Spring 2025

Course Schedule

Session 1: Introduction to the Academy
This session is designed to provide an overview of the Academy and its goals. It will also cover the importance of safety and the role of public works professionals.

Session 2: Safety
This session will focus on the importance of safety in the workplace. It will cover topics such as personal protective equipment (PPE), traffic control, and emergency procedures.

Session 3: Dealing with Difficult People
This session will provide participants with the skills and techniques necessary to effectively deal with difficult people in the workplace.

Session 4: Flagging Certification
This session will provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain flagging certification.

Session 5: Public Works Operations
This session will provide participants with an overview of the various operations involved in public works, including maintenance, construction, and emergency response.

Session 6: Public Works Association (RIPWA)
This session will provide participants with an overview of the Rhode Island Public Works Association and its role in the industry.

Session 7: Graduation
This session will mark the completion of the Academy and provide participants with a certificate of completion.

Registration

Registration Fee: There is no charge for Rhode Island Public Works Academy. However, participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

Registration: Register by email by using the Register Now button below or by sending an email to RIPWA@dot.ri.gov with the following information for each participant:

- Full Name (First and Last)
- Municipality or Organization
- Department
- Job Title
- Email Address (Each registered participant must provide an email address)
- Submit the participant's photo to RIPWA@dot.ri.gov
- Submit Date

Lodging: RIPWA will provide morning refreshments and lunch each day for registered participants.

Register Today!

The Rhode Island Public Works Academy is a joint collaboration of:

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

3. Hands-on Safety
4. OSHA 10-hour for Construction
5. Chainsaw Safety
6. CPR, First Aid, AED
7. Snow and Ice Control

The Spring 2025 Public Works Academy will kick off on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, with a highly interactive workshop titled Dealing with Difficult People and Conversations.

Registration is limited to the first 20 people who register. Registration closes May 2, 2025, so don't delay!

For more information and registration instructions, click [Additional Information](#) below to view the Spring 2025 R.I. Public Works Academy flyer.

[Additional Information](#)

Upcoming Observances & Safety Events

April

- National Work Zone Awareness Week
- Workers Memorial Day
- National Safe Digging Month
- Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Workplace Violence Awareness Month
- International Dark Sky Week\
- World Day for Health and Safety at Work

May

- National Safety Stand Down to Prevent Falls
- National Public Works Week
- Electrical Safety Month
- Better Hearing Month
- Ultraviolet Awareness Month
- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
- Mental Health Month
- Bicycle Safety Month
- Youth Traffic Safety Month
- National Heat Awareness Day
- Heatstroke Prevention Day
- National Save Your Hearing Day

June

- National Safety Month
 - Trench Safety Month
 - National Trails Day
-

[Kathleen Sisson](#)

Director of Educational Advancement

[Jennifer Roman](#)

LTAP Program Coordinator

Rhode Island LTAP | State of Rhode Island Department of Transportation | Two Capitol Hill | Providence, RI 02903 US

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