



## Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program

### Quarterly News & Updates

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### Updates from the Rhode Island LTAP

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#### Lunch & Learn Series

The Rhode Island LTAP Lunch & Learn Series began in April with *Meet FHWA and RIDOT*. May's topic was *Project Management at RIDOT* and June brought you *Transportation Funding*.

Lunch & Learns occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at noon so be sure to mark your calendar for these upcoming sessions:

- July 14<sup>th</sup>: What is the TIP? How projects are added and what projects are coming out
- August 11<sup>th</sup>: Non-State Bridges - Requirements, FHWA Updates, and Maintenance

Were you unable to join previous sessions? No problem! All Lunch and Learn session have been recorded and are available in the RI Learning Center.

#### 2021 Public Works Awareness & Appreciation Week

The Rhode Island LTAP program participated in this year's Public Works Awareness & Appreciation Week which ran May 16-22.

RIDOT mailed information about RI LTAP's offerings for local government employees as well as certificates of appreciation to all 39 Public Works Departments in Rhode Island.

This was a great opportunity to highlight the important role that public works has as first responders to ensure our local streets, sidewalks, and public spaces are clean, safe, and accessible.



## Available On-Demand Courses

There are currently *over 200* courses available for our Rhode Island LTAP partners in the Rhode Island Learning Center, the State's Online Learning Management Center!

The following are courses paid for by the Rhode Island LTAP. If you are interested in these courses, please contact Jennifer Roman at [Jennifer.Roman@dot.ri.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Roman@dot.ri.gov).

- ATSSA [virtual] Flagger Training
- Environmental, Safety & Health, and Transportation licensed content including:
  - *Cold and Heat Illness Awareness and Prevention*
  - *Driving Safety*
  - *Electrical Safety*
  - *Environmental Regulations Overview*
  - *First Aid*
  - *Global Safety Shorts*
    - Short safety clips such as Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness and Chemical Safety Principles
  - *Hazard Communication and Hazards to Outdoor Workers*
  - *Hearing Conservation*
  - *Machine Guarding*
  - *Mold Awareness*
  - *Office Safety*
  - *Slips, Trips, and Falls*
  - *Spill Prevention and Control*

## RIDOT Courses Taught by CCRI

Seats are now available to our municipal partners for the below classes. These are RIDOT courses taught through CCRI. Seats are being made available to our municipal partners and paid for by the Rhode Island LTAP.

To enroll in any of these courses please access the Rhode Island Learning Center, the State's Online Learning Management System (LMS).

First time users see the [Quick Start Guide](#) for registration instructions. Returning users see the [Quick Start Guide - Login and Password Reset](#). Please see the [Course Descriptions](#) for more information.

<p><b><u>Business Essentials</u></b>  <i>Thursdays 9am - 12pm</i>                      July 8, 15, 22, 29                      Aug 5</p>	<p><b><u>Data Literacy</u></b>  <i>Wednesdays 9am - 12pm</i>                      July 14, 21, 28                      Aug 4, 11, 18, 25                      Sept 1, 8, 15</p>	<p><b><u>Quick Start Microsoft Suite</u></b>  <i>Wednesdays 9am - 1pm</i>                      Sept 22, 29                      Oct 6, 13</p>
<p><b><u>Asynchronous Excel</u></b>  <i>Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm</i></p>	<p><b><u>Enhancing Leadership Skills for Supervisors</u></b>  <i>Mondays 9am - 12pm</i></p>	

Oct 27  
Nov 17  
Dec 1

Oct 25  
Nov 1, 8, 15, 22

## Equipment Loan Program Update

### *The Laptops are Here!*

We've been hard at work preparing the equipment for our new Equipment Loan Program and we're excited to announce: the equipment is ready!

The Equipment Loan Program is launching with laptops available for Rhode Island's local transportation workforce to support learning and development. Eligible municipal personnel includes public works employees, city planners, city engineers, decision makers, and others involved in the planning, management, and maintenance of our local roads.

We have a total of 12 laptops complete with:

- Laptop Case
- Microsoft Office 2019 Professional Plus
- Laptop Charger
- Ethernet Cable
- Wired Mouse

If you are interested in learning more please contact us at [dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov](mailto:dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov).

## June is Trench Safety Month!



### OSHA Urges Caution During Trench Safety Month

OSHA has made reducing trenching and excavation hazards the Agency's Priority Goal. Trench collapses, or cave-ins, pose the greatest risk to workers' lives. To prevent cave-ins:

- SLOPE or bench trench walls
- SHORE trench walls with supports, or
- SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes

Employers should also ensure there is a safe way to enter and exit the trench. Keep materials away from the edge of the trench. Look for standing water or atmospheric hazards. Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected.

OSHA applicable standards: 29 CFR 1926.650, 29 CFR 1926.651, and 29 CFR 1926.652

[Read More ...](#)

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**Additional Resources**

## Trenching & Excavation Training in the Rhode Island Learning Center

- Excavation and Trenching
- Trench and Excavation Safety

### Applicable OSHA Standards

- [29 CFR 1926.650](#)
- [29 CFR 1926.651](#)
- [29 CFR 1926.652](#)

### From the *National Utility Contractors Association*

- [2021 Trench Safety Stand Down](#)
- [Talking Points](#)



**WATER.  
REST.  
SHADE.**

The work can't get done without them.

## WATER. REST. SHADE. Sun and Heat Safety

### Heat Related Illnesses and First Aid

From OSHA

In a warm environment, especially when physically active, the human body relies on its ability to get rid of excess heat (i.e., heat dissipation) to maintain a healthy internal body temperature. Heat dissipation happens naturally through sweating and increased blood flow to the skin. Workers cool down more rapidly if the external (environmental) heat and physical activity (metabolic heat) are reduced.

If heat dissipation does not happen quickly enough, the internal body temperature keeps rising and the worker may experience symptoms that include thirst, irritability, a rash, cramping, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke.

Heat stroke is the most severe heat-related illness. Workers suffering from heat stroke experience mental dysfunction such as unconsciousness, confusion, disorientation, or slurred speech. Cool these workers immediately and call 911!

### Keeping Workers Safe in the Heat

From OSHA

During heat waves, workers may experience a combination of two kinds of heat-related illness.

"Exertional heat illness" results primarily from exertion (metabolic heat generated by muscle activity in the body). On the other hand, "environmental heat illness," is attributed primarily to ambient conditions, including heat and relative humidity, and is related to heat waves and death in the elderly, urban heat islands, and hot motor vehicles (Bouchama 2002).

### Fact Sheets, Wallet Cards, Videos

Click on any of the below to see the printable PDF.

- Prevent Heat Illness at Work
  - [English](#)
- Protecting Yourself in the Sun
  - [English](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
- Printable Heat Outreach Wallet Card
  - [English](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Portuguese](#)
- Heat Safety Fact Sheet for Construction
  - [English](#)

You can learn more about these and other heat-related illnesses by clicking below.

[Read more](#)

<https://www.osha.gov/heat-exposure/illness-first-aid>

- [Spanish](#)
- OSHA Alert: Working Safely in Hot Weather
  - [English Fact Sheet](#)
  - [English Video](#)
  - [Spanish Fact Sheet](#)
  - [Spanish Video](#)

[Read more](#)

<https://www.osha.gov/heat/>

**Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program**

**Rhode Island Department of Transportation**

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