



KEEP SAFE

A Monthly Publication for Texas Electric Cooperatives

April 2011

Safer driving. Safer work zones. For everyone.

Each year, more than 100 workers are killed and over 20,000 are injured in the highway and street construction industry. Most of these injuries and fatalities occur in what is known as the “work zone.”



What is the “work zone?”

The work zone is an area where highway construction, maintenance, or utility work activities are taking place. What makes this work area dangerous is that passing motorists, construction vehicles, and equipment are moving through the same space that the construction employees are working in.

Accidents

Accidents that occur in work zones are usually caused by:

- poor traffic control procedures,
- unsatisfactory construction vehicle and equipment maintenance (such as malfunctioning warning devices),
- poorly designed work zones, and
- failure to establish and follow policies and procedures for ensuring safety on the job.

Vehicles and equipment operating in and around the work zone are involved in over half of the worker fatalities in the heavy and highway construction industry.

Sometimes passing motorists are at fault for the injuries and fatalities that occur in the work zone. Workers are often injured or killed by moving vehicles entering their work zones. Other times, it is the construction vehicles and equipment operating within the work zone that causes the accidents and injuries.

Work zone hazards

There are two basic types of work zone hazards:

- Internal hazards are activities within the workspace such as moving vehicles.
- External hazards are ones presented by passing cars and trucks and the debris they kick up.

Potential hazards associated with work zones include:

- traffic and construction equipment accidents,
- working above level,
- slippery conditions,
- machinery pinch points,
- crush zones,
- drop-offs,
- trenches,
- airborne lead and silica particles,
- truck tip-overs, and
- energized electrical lines and conductors.

There are many internal and external work zone hazards, but you can avoid them if you think safety first, use procedures required or recommended by regulatory agencies and industry experts, and be alert to situations that might result in accidents.

(Safer driving continued on page 2)

Happy Easter

(Safer driving continued from page 1)

Training tips

All personnel, regardless of occupation, must be oriented to each work zone's hazards and how to avoid them. OSHA regulations require equipment operators to be fully trained on the machines they will operate. OSHA and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (published by the Federal Highway Administration) have specific regulations for flaggers.

Where to go for more information

- 29 CFR 1926.20 — General safety and health provisions.
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart G — Signs, Signals, and Barricades.
- Part VI of either the 1988 Edition of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), with 1993 revision (Revision 3), or the Millennium Edition of the FHWA MUTCD (Millennium Edition).

Source: KellerOnline®

Scholarship Auction Thank You....

On behalf of the TEC Loss Control Advisory Committee and staff please accept our sincere appreciation for all of the generous scholarship auction donations and purchases made at the scholarship auction held March 16th during the Loss Control Conference.

The 2011 scholarship auction raised approximately \$25,000 and will assist in providing college scholarships to the eighty-two 2011 scholarship recipients.

Again, thank you for your generosity and dedication to TEC's Loss Control Program.

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April - prep your lawn and garage

With spring now in bloom, it's an ideal time to get your lawn in top shape.


- Before mowing, put on goggles and hearing protection.
- Make sure that children are far away from the area.
- Check for sticks, stones, or any other objects that could shoot out from under the mower or damage the blade.
- Never reach under the mower unless it's turned off and the blade has completely stopped turning.
- If you run out of gas, stop and let the engine cool down before you add more.
- When cutting down greenery or branches, use a chain saw only if it's equipped with a well-sharpened anti-kickback chain. Review instructions carefully.

Next, clean out and organize the garage

- Keep dangerous products in their original containers, and do not mix the substances together.
- Products whose labels include "Caution," "Warning," "Danger," or "Poison" should be locked in cabinets out of reach of children and pets, and away from heat.
- To avoid tip-overs, make sure garage shelves are anchored to the wall and are not overloaded. Store heaviest items near the ground.
- Organize and store sharp or electrical tools in a locked cabinet, or up high where children cannot reach.
- Keep the garage floor, steps, and entries clear of clutter, and clean up grease and other spills.
- Move gasoline — which is extremely flammable — out of your home, keep it in a container made for gasoline, and store it in a locked outdoor shed if possible.



Texas Electric Cooperatives

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2011 TEC LOSS CONTROL SCHOOLS (31 Schools)

Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Merkel)	January 11-14
Metering (Gonzales)	January 18-21
2 Day Transformer (San Augustine)	January 26-27
Transformer (Livingston)	February 8-11
Metering (Lubbock)	February 15-18
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (San Augustine)	February 22-25
Advanced Pole Climbing (Gonzales)	February 22-25
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Tahoka)	March 1-4
Troubleshooting (Greenville)	March 8-11
Transformer (Gonzales)	March 29-April 1
Metering (Merkel)	April 5-8
Basic Pole Climbing (San Augustine)	April 5-8
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (McGregor)	April 12-15
Hotline 1-4 (Henderson)	April 25-29
Basic Pole Climbing (Gonzales)	April 26-29
Underground (Quitman)	May 2-6
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Gonzales)	May 10-13
Transformer (Tahoka)	May 17-20
Hotline 1-4 (Merkel)	May 23-27
Metering (McGregor)	June 7-10
Basic Pole Climbing (Tahoka)	June 7-10
Underground (Gonzales)	June 13-17
Metering (Livingston)	June 21-24
Troubleshooting (Livingston)	July 26-29
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Greenville)	August 16-19
Hotline 1-4 (Gonzales)	August 29-Sept 2
Underground (McGregor)	September 12-16
Hotline 1-4 (Levelland)	September 26-30
Underground (Merkel)	October 3-7
Underground (Levelland)	October 17-21
Hotline 1-4 (Livingston)	October 24-28