

Resource rich

The Wisconsin Transportation Information Center (TIC) is a good source for a wide range of training resources designed to benefit local governments across the state.



Make more use of TIC library

TIGHT BUDGETS tend to result in fewer training opportunities for local road agencies. But the video lending library managed by TIC is one solution that provides a rich resource at a low cost. Agencies can conduct on-site training on a schedule that fits their operations and staff needs. The pre-recorded and timely programs cover topics from equipment maintenance and erosion control to patching unpaved roads.

Among 25 new DVDs TIC has added to its lending library in the past two years are many that focus on worker safety. The DVD format is ideal for worker safety training since experience shows it is best to present these topics on site so employees, lead workers and supervisors can view the program material together and discuss how they can implement the strategies explored in their own operation. Most programs are less than 15 minutes long, but each has a wealth of information with direct bearing on the health and safety of a public works or highway workforce.

Borrowing made easy

Local road officials can review the video lending catalog at the TIC website <http://tic.engr.wisc.edu/Videos>, and search for a topic using key words or browse topic categories for programs of interest. Borrowers then contact a nearby county extension office to request their video or DVD selection and TIC mails it free of charge. The only cost to borrowers is the return postage.

Records indicate that local road agencies in Wisconsin borrow about 120 videos and DVDs from the library each year. This is a small number compared to the nearly 2,000 local governments who maintain the state's road system. TIC encourages more public agencies to explore the resources available through the information center outlets and recommend other training topics the center can add to the library. ■

Public Works Supervisory Academy moves to TIC

THE ACADEMIC HOME of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Public Works Supervisory Academy (PWSA) will move from the Department of Continuing Studies to TIC in January 2013.

The nine-course program provides first- and second-line supervisors with the tools to be effective managers. Knowledgeable and experienced instructors provide up-to-date information along with the chance to practice skills and problem-solve with other course participants. Course topics include:

- Basic Management Skills
- Citizen/Customer Service
- Equipment Use & Workplace Safety
- Fundamentals of Government/Ethics
- Improving Communication Skills
- Leadership Skills (formerly Work Planning & Goal Setting)
- Nuts & Bolts of Personnel Management
- Management Assessment
- Purchasing & Inventory Control

PWSA offers all nine courses each calendar year. Participants can take classes in any order and enroll in individual sessions without enrolling in the entire series. Completing the entire program fulfills 54 hours of the Wisconsin Certified Public Manager® Program.

The UW-Madison offers PWSA in cooperation with the American Public Works Association Wisconsin Chapter and encourages graduates to continue their professional development by enrolling in the Public Works Management Institute, a five course series that focuses on building management skills. Contact TIC via email tic@epd.engr.wisc.edu or call 800-442-4615 to learn more. ■