

Flagger training makes safer work zones

"One of the toughest things I have to do is to stress the importance of the flagger's job," says instructor Jeff Moore. "Flaggers have to know proper techniques, procedures and signals. The goal is to improve the safety of the work zone." Moore is a trainer with the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University. He and Tim Baughman, director of the Institute's highway program, recently taught several flagger-trainer workshops around Wisconsin.



Training session offers practice in flagging.

Participants learn the six most common types of flagging operations: single flagger, two flagger, pilot car operation, one direction control, emergency flagging, and night time flagging. After classroom presentations, workshop participants practice on an outdoor model roadway.

"We provide people with the training, the tools, and the self-confidence they need to train their employees," says Moore. "They stand up and practice to make sure they actually understand the signals."

In a variety of active exercises, participants take the roles of flaggers and vehicles. This gives the flagger somebody to control and lets the "driver" see good flagging signals. The course prepares trainers and managers to teach a half-day session on proper flagging to their employees.

The program, which originated six years ago as a project for the South Carolina Department of Transportation, has now been taught in a number of states.

People commonly want to know about liability in an accident where they are flagging. Typically they could be named in a suit, says Moore, though the employer's umbrella liability insurance should cover them. This is one reason crew leaders and trainers may want to encourage management to provide proper flagger equipment, signing and training.

"Actions speak louder than words," says Moore. "A public works director came to my course and then did some flagging afterwards. He got a lot of mileage out of it with his crew. He demonstrated his commitment to the importance of flagging."

This flagging training program is the first in a series of work zone safety courses offered jointly by the T.I.C. and WisDOT. A new flagger handbook was prepared for workshop participants and their flagging trainees.

Calendar

Specific details and locations for workshops are sent to all **Crossroads** recipients. For additional copies, or more information, call the T.I.C. at 800/442-4615.

T.I.C. workshops

Asphalt Pavement Maintenance Demonstration Today's materials, machines and methods can help you extend the useful life of your asphalt pavements through maintenance. Learn when and how to use eight pavement maintenance techniques and see them applied on the street. Advance registration required. June 17 — Monroe

Winter Road Maintenance Time to prepare for winter operations. This workshop covers equipment preparation, operations planning, and the latest on ice control materials. Includes time to share better winter operations experiences and tips with your peers.

Sept. 21	Tomah	Sept. 28	Green Bay
Sept. 22	Eau Claire	Sept. 29	Brookfield
Sept. 23	Cable	Sept. 30	Barneveld
Sept. 24	Rhineland		

Local Transportation Issues (ETN) The UW Local Government Center and the T.I.C. will offer a series of workshops on transportation issues at over 103 ETN locations across Wisconsin. You can register for one workshop or the whole series.

- Local Authority to Manage Road**, Oct 15
- Local Transportation Aids and Grants**, Nov 5
- Bidding for Local Road Construction Projects**, Jan 14
- Changes in the Local Road Data Base**, Feb 11
- Liability for Local Road Agencies**, Mar 4

Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance and Operation Learn about personal protective equipment, proper maintenance procedures, and the most effective techniques for chainsaw use. Taught by expert trainers from the Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance, Inc., this workshop includes a classroom session in the morning and outdoor demonstrations in the afternoon.