



# March Newsletter

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## Training Opportunities this Month - With PWI

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Level up your public works expertise this March with UTA EEC's Public Works Institute. Registration is now open for a slate of upcoming courses across Texas. From foundational skills to advanced leadership trainings, these open enrollment sessions offer a chance to sharpen your toolkit. Check out the upcoming opportunities coming this month.

[Advanced Road Inspector](#)

[Traffic Control Supervisor](#)

[Certified Flagger Trainer](#)

## Featured Articles

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## Turning Old Tires Into New Roads

TxDOT's San Angelo District put more than 135,000 recycled tires to work in recent road projects, improving pavement performance while keeping waste out of local landfills. And with the district earning an Environmental Achievement Award for the effort, the full story behind this approach is worth a closer look.

[Read more...](#)



## APWA on Public Works as First Responders

APWA's latest episode of Public Works Radio takes a closer look at what it really means for public workers to be recognized as first responders. The discussion unpacks the stories driving this push for formal designation, and why the movement is gaining traction in communities across the country.

[Read more...](#)

# FHWA Launches Every Day Counts Round 8 for 2026 - 2027

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The Federal Highway Administration has released the 2026–2027 cycle of its *Every Day Counts* (EDC-8) program, introducing six new innovations aimed at improving roadway safety, accelerating project delivery, and modernizing infrastructure management. Building on more than a decade of progress, this round emphasizes advancements in nighttime work zone safety, broader use of alternative contracting methods, improved data sharing through Connected Corridors, expanded digital project

delivery, strengthened Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE), and next-generation Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS 2.0).

Together, these focus areas are designed to help state and local agencies deliver safer, more efficient, and more resilient transportation systems. FHWA has published the full EDC-8 framework along with innovation summaries and implementation resources for agencies preparing for the 2026–2027 cycle.

[Learn More about EDC-8](#)

## National Fall Prevention Safety - PPE Tips

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For Texas city and county public works teams, ladder use is part of the job, whether it is facility maintenance, sign installation, or field inspections. But it also comes with serious risk. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), falls from portable ladders remain one of the leading causes of workplace injuries and fatalities, and nearly a third of construction-related deaths involve falls from ladders.

The good news is that these incidents are preventable.

In public works environments, ladders are often set up on uneven terrain, near traffic, or around active job sites. That makes planning and proper use essential. Simple but critical practices include:

- Inspecting ladders before every use
- Selecting the correct ladder type, material, length, and duty rating
- Setting extension ladders at the proper angle
- Maintaining three-point contact while climbing
- Keeping your body centered and avoiding overreaching
- Staying alert to overhead power lines and nearby work activity

It is also important to recognize when a ladder may not be the best tool for the task. Jobs that require heavy materials, extended time at height, or awkward positioning may call for safer alternatives like a scissor lift or bucket truck. As leaders and supervisors, March is a timely opportunity to reinforce ladder safety during tailgate talks and crew meetings. A quick refresher now can prevent injuries later, protecting your workforce, maintaining productivity, and supporting a strong safety culture across your agency. Fall prevention starts with awareness, and every safe climb counts.

[Read More Tailgate Talks](#)

In other training news, TxLTAP is also in the process of updating our *Fall Hazard Awareness for the Construction Industry* course. Now enhanced with an OSHA Training Institute Education Center certificate to better support agencies in strengthening their safety programs.

# Get Recognized for your Local Innovations with BABM

Has your city, county, or public works department developed a tool, process, or safety solution that makes work safer or more efficient?

**Build A Better Mousetrap** celebrates innovations like these and gives agencies the chance to **be recognized nationally**. Winning innovations are featured nationally, giving agencies a platform to share solutions that help communities everywhere.

[LEARN MORE →](#)

## Classroom Spotlight

TxLTAP recently hosted two four-hour classes at the University of Texas at Arlington EEC campus: **Work Zone Safety: Temporary Traffic Control** and **Flagger Training**.

These sessions were offered as part of our Road Safety Champion Program and were open to Texas city and county public works personnel.



The classes provided a valuable opportunity for participants to reinforce their understanding of work zone safety practices and, for those attending Flagger Training, earn their flagger certification cards.

Both courses were led by one of our top-notch instructors, whose experience and expertise continue to support agencies in strengthening safe operations on Texas roadways. Opportunities like these allow us to continue supporting Texas cities and counties with accessible, high-quality safety training focused on protecting crews and the traveling public.

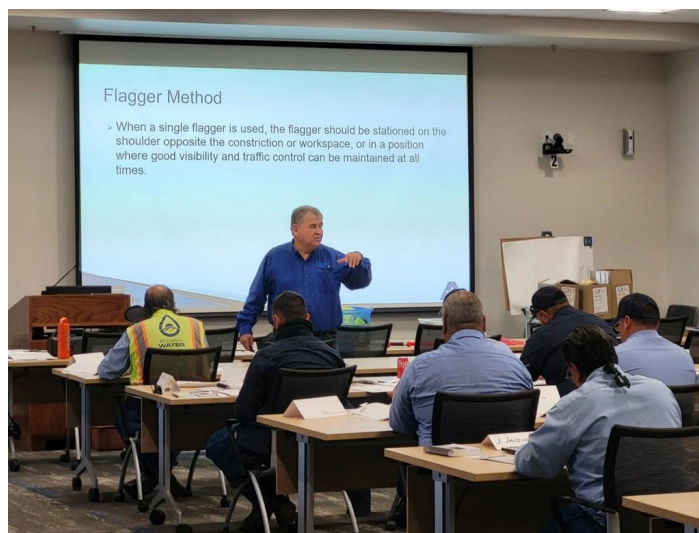
We appreciate everyone who joined us and remain committed to delivering meaningful training that supports the important work being done across Texas cities and counties.

## Instructor Spotlight

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### Ernesto Carrizal III, P.E.

For 20 years, Ernesto Carrizal, helped shape the infrastructure and public services of El Paso County. Starting as a project engineer and eventually serving as Public Works Director/County Engineer. While at the County, he oversaw the County's Capital Improvement Projects, which included the Tornillo/Guadalupe International Bridge construction, special revenue projects, infrastructure projects, and East Montana Water Systems. He also oversaw the On-Site Septic department, the Fabens airport, two County pauper's cemetery, County parks, solid waste collection, and the building facilities divisions.



After retiring from county service, Ernesto brought his deep field experience to the University of Texas at Arlington's Extension and Extended Campus Public Works Institute, where he now trains public-sector employees in Work Zone and Flagger Safety. Additionally, using his prior experience as a member of the El Paso MPO board, he co-teaches the Local Government Program Qualification classes with TxDOT's LGP representatives, helping participants earn the "Qualified Person" certification required for working on transportation projects across Texas.

Ernesto's passion for public service continues in the classroom, where he blends real-world stories, practical insight, and a genuine commitment to helping local government professionals grow in their careers.

**"From 2014 to 2023 4.7% of all Traffic Fatalities occurred in Work Zones" (TxDOT)**

### Work Zone Safety Matters

TxLTAP's Work Zone Safety classes help Texas city and county crews stay prepared and keep roads safe.

Request a class today!

## TxLTAP in Action

If you're attending an event or conference, be sure to stop by the TxLTAP booth to meet our team, learn about our free training and resources, and see how we can support Texas cities and counties!

While you're there, pick up some TxLTAP swag, including:

- TxLTAP bags,
- Emergency Glass breakers,
- Multi-cord Chargers
- Other exciting items!

TxLTAP Will be at the following conferences:

- [NACE Annual Conference](#)
- [West Texas County Judges & Commissioners Association](#)



- UT Arlington EEC-

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