



## Safety Focus of the Month

### Mentor

What does "Mentor" mean to you on the job?

Each month we will highlight each letter of: **SIMPLE**. The safety team will be providing table tents to place around your offices.

### Mentor towards safe practices!

Implementing safe practices is not only important for your safety, but to the safety of others around you.

By committing to safety on the job, you can lead by example and encourage others to practice safety while at work, too!

### Winter Driving

The cold season can be an especially dangerous time on the roadways. Use the tips below to practice safe driving during the winter!

- Maintain 3-point contact when climbing into or out of vehicles and equipment.
- Hydrate throughout the day and take breaks to stretch and flex as needed.
- Buckle up during every trip. Every rider must always wear their seatbelts.
- Turn on your lights for increased visibility during the day and at night.
- Slow down to anticipate encountering potential hazards on the road.
- Avoid walking or spotting close to or on the center line.
- Turn off cruise control in rain, ice, sleet, snow, or fog.
- Layer winter PPE for warmth and flexibility.

To learn more about safe winter driving practices, please read OCC's [Winter Weather Driving Tips](#) on Crossroads.



## Situational Awareness

TxDOT has recently seen an increase in vehicle accidents and injuries while on the job. Practicing situational awareness can help lower your risk for potential incidents or injuries and increase safety while at work.

Use the tips below to implement situational awareness and promote safety!

1

### Check the forecast

Staying up to date on current weather conditions in your area is crucial. Consider how those conditions may impact your travel from home and at work.

2

### Fight fatigue

Fatigue stems from various factors like stress, medical conditions, or lack of sleep. Consequences of fatigue include reduced attention, slower reaction times, impaired judgement, and limited short-term memory.

3

### Look for potential hazards

Identify any hazards such as cords or clutter in a walkway, or an overloaded extension cord. Take steps to eliminate the problem and if you are not sure what to do, always ask for help.

4

### Remain vigilant

Consistently practicing situational awareness ensures that safety becomes an automatic integral part of your daily routine, protecting yourself and others!

## FY25 Long Term Challenge

Winners will be awarded a custom, laser engraved tumbler and all sections who achieve Mission Zero for FY25 will be entered in a random drawing to win a free, hot and homemade breakfast cooked by Tucker, Mike, and Lori. Let's start the year strong and finish even stronger!

Good luck and Happy New Year!!