

DEBRIS REMOVAL:

According to the [American Automobile Association](#), road debris was a factor in 200,000 automobile crashes between 2011 and 2014, resulting in 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths. Debris removal on or near roadways is a frequent and important local government process, but it should never be treated as routine. Are you *R.O.A.D. Ready* when it's your job to keep roadways clear of debris? Remember the R.O.A.D. acronym:

Recognize the Hazards:

- Appraise traffic conditions, weather, and other relevant factors prior to beginning debris removal.
- Evaluate debris for health concerns, with particular care being given to heavy objects, syringes, glass, animal carcasses, and biological hazards (e.g., poisonous plants, bug protection, etc.).
- Proactively conduct table-top exercises to prepare for incident response and improvement in policies, procedures, and training, *before* an incident occurs.

Observe People, Processes, and Equipment:

- What are the physical conditions of the area?
- Is equipment in good working order and are workers properly using it?
- Do workers have appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment?
- Are workers empowered to question safety and make suggestions to improve it?

Assess the Risk Level:

- Is it possible to perform this task safely with current training, equipment, and conditions?
- Conduct an after-action review to see what can be learned and improved upon.

Determine the Safest Course of Action:

- Provide regular training in work zone setup and traffic control measures in accordance with the [Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#).
- Use appropriate best practices, such as advance warning, proper traffic control, pre-planning, and training.
- Establish an internal traffic control plan (ITCP) to coordinate the movement of workers, equipment, and vehicles.
- Develop safe lifting procedures, including team lifting or the use of proper equipment for heavy objects.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as reflective vests, gloves, safety glasses, appropriate footwear, and specialized PPE when working around insects, animal carcasses, sewage, etc.

Pool-Provided Resources: TMLIRP Media Library

- Back Injury Prevention for Public Entities (DVD) 2008
- Roadway Worker Safety: In the Zone (DVD) 2008
- Safety First: Work Area Traffic Control (DVD) 2003
- Personal Protective equipment: Your Final Defense (DVD) 2014

Other Resources

- Texas Department of Insurance: [Safety after a storm](#)
- [National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse](#)

