

VEHICLE OPERATIONS AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

A vehicle crashes in Texas almost every minute of every day (every one minute and seven seconds, [to be exact](#).) Are you R.O.A.D. Ready when operating your local government vehicle? Remember the R.O.A.D. acronym:

Recognize the Hazards:

- The [Texas Department of Transportation](#) reports that Texans drove over 260 billion miles in 2020.
- Appraise the vehicle, traffic conditions, weather, and other relevant factors prior to operating a vehicle.
- 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:

- Inspect your vehicle and equipment on a regular basis.
- Know what communication devices will be used when responding to incidents and ensure they are in good working order.
- Ensure your vehicle is equipped with personal protective equipment, such as reflective vests, to use when responding to incidents.
- 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 driving safety training and roadway incident response training that's relevant to the type of vehicle and conditions, including vehicle-blocking procedures at roadway incidents, providing other drivers with advanced warning, proper lighting procedures, safe traffic control practices, certified flaggers, and traffic incident management.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as reflective vests, etc.

Pool-Provided Resources:

- [Risk Resource Library](#): Move Over Law
- [Media Library](#):
 - Before you Turn the Key – Disk #537
 - Defensive Flagging: A Survivor's Guide – Disk #23
- [Online Learning Center](#):
 - Traffic Incident Management
 - Highway Incident Safety Guidelines for Emergency Responders



Other Resources:

- Texas Department of Insurance: [Occupational Driving Safety Resources](#)
- [Responder Safety Learning Network](#) training programs
- Federal Highway Administration: [Office of Safety](#)