



R.O.A.D. Ready Program Aims to Save Lives

The TML Risk Pool provides workers' compensation coverage to more than 200,000 public servants, including almost 50,000 first responders. Sadly, the Pool averages at least one roadway-related fatality claim each year.

This month, local media outlets reported the loss of *five* dedicated public servants in Texas. On October 18, City of Carrollton Police Officer Steve Nothem, 36, was assisting a fellow officer with a DWI arrest in the westbound lanes of President George Bush Turnpike when his squad car was hit by a passing driver. He died shortly thereafter. Officer Nothem is survived by his wife, a 13-year-old son, twin six-year-old sons, and a one-year-old daughter. Before he became a police officer, he served two tours as a U.S. Marine in Iraq.

**R - Recognize the hazards.
O - Observe people, processes, and equipment.
A - Assess the risk level.
D - Determine the safest course of action.**

On October 14, Levelland animal control officers Crystal Jeanette Goforth, 38, and Jonathan David Corder, 41, were responding to a deceased dog on U.S. Highway 385. Their pickup truck was parked on the shoulder when another truck crashed into it from behind. Mrs. Goforth died on the scene. She was married to the City of Levelland Wastewater Superintendent, Joshua Goforth, and has a 15-year-old son. Mr. Corder was airlifted to University Medical Center with critical injuries, where he later succumbed to his injuries.



On October 4, a Dalhart Volunteer Fire Department SUV was returning to the station when it was hit head on by an 18-wheeler on U.S. Highway 54. Volunteer Firefighter Brendan Torres, 19, and Fire Chief Curtis Brown, 51, were pronounced dead at the scene. Firefighter Torres is survived by his parents and grandparents. Chief Brown is survived by his wife and daughter.

The loss of these members of the municipal family in Texas is tragic, and the Pool will – under the workers' compensation law – provide lifetime financial support to their family members in most cases. Pool staff will also keep the families in our hearts.

Over the last five years, the Pool has had over 19,000 auto-related claims for a total incurred loss of over \$150 million. Non-auto-related claims in and around roadways exceeded 12,000 and \$78 million. Rather than sit idle in the face of these tragedies and statistics, the Pool has designed a program to raise awareness among city employees about the dangers of working in and around roadways and vehicles. It's also designed to prevent injuries and protect property.



The R.O.A.D. Ready initiative is simple, but – as the examples above show – important. Working near or on roadways – while necessary – is extremely dangerous. That’s especially true for employees who respond to roadway incidents, conduct roadway repair, or engage in right-of-way operations. But it’s also true for tasks like debris removal, traffic stops, accident scene response, graffiti abatement, and others.

Being R.O.A.D. Ready means your city is committed to continuously improving employee safety related to operations near or on roadways. The Risk Pool wants to partner with you to protect property and lives by giving you the specific tools, resources, training, and loss prevention consultation to protect your employees. The Pool has designated January as R.O.A.D. Ready month, but you can participate at any time. Your participation will:

- Show that you value employees by making roadway safety a priority and having policies and procedures in place, and by implementing a continuous awareness and improvement program.
- Promote R.O.A.D. Ready by participating in other national roadway, vehicle, or work zone outreach activities, such as National Distracted Driving Month, National Work Zone Safety Awareness Month, National Safety Month, and/or National First Responder Safety Program.
- Provide internal roadway safety training, or use the Risk Pool’s training programs, to help foster employee awareness of roadway hazards.

Around 90 Pool Members have taken advantage of the voluntary R.O.A.D. Ready program. If you are interested, please contact your loss prevention representative. In return, each participating member will receive consultative services, resources, and best practices to help reduce the potential impact of roadway exposures.

Contact the Loss Prevention team today at losspreventionmaillist@tmlirp.org or 800-537-6655.