



Lower Providence Township

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Timely Training for Road Crews

LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP (May 7, 2009) – PennDOT brought its traveling safety show to Lower Providence on May 5 and with spring and summer projects looming, road crews from the Township and surrounding municipalities took advantage of the timely refresher course.

The session was offered through PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) that offers transportation training and technical assistance to public works crews, municipal and elected officials throughout the state. LTAP training is offered at little or no cost to municipalities and courses, including customized versions, are brought directly to the municipalities.

“Ongoing employee training is a top Township priority,” said Public Works Director David Shaffer. He said that plans are underway to host additional LTAP workshops in the future. In addition, Shaffer said that the Township holds regular training for its Public Works and Parks crews and also has initiated “tool talks”. These short sessions, held two or three times a month, provide important reminders and keep safety on everyone's mind, he said.

The LTAP course, Equipment and Worker Safety, was presented by Jason Shura of Pennoni Associates. The course provided a basic understanding of common safety factors and practices associated with public works road maintenance operations. Specific operations discussed were trench excavation, crack sealing with hot asphalt, mowing and chain saw use, as well as winter maintenance. The course also provided an overview of why accidents happen and how to protect personnel through the use of personal protective equipment. Work place awareness was stressed, with emphasis on chemical safety, environmental hazards and vehicle and equipment safety issues.

Sarah Oaks from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission works with PennDOT personnel to schedule training in southeastern Pennsylvania. To learn more about the classes offered or to inquire about upcoming training opportunities, interested municipal officials may contact Oaks at ltap@dvrpc.org or visit the main LTAP website: www.dot7.state.pa.us/LTAP.

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