

January 2020 Issue

VTrans Training Center Quarterly Employee Newsletter

Learning & Development Month Winners



October was Learning & Development Month; the VTTC encouraged all agency employees to complete at least one learning opportunity during the month to be entered into a drawing for some VTrans swag!

Here are the lucky winners:

- Nichole Adams
- Chris Alger
- Lisa Barbeau
- Charles Harding
- Michael Martin
- Justin McLane

Winter Maintenance and Safety

Winter Driving

Be Prepared

- **Pack an essential emergency car kit;** include things like batteries/ phone charger, blankets, first aid kit, shovel, water, etc.
- **Maintain your vehicle properly;** have proper tires (winter, snow chains, etc.) for your vehicle and commute, check vehicle's fluid levels

Winter Driving

- **Avoid sudden braking and acceleration;** take it slow. When there is snow and/ or ice on the road, your vehicle has less traction.
- **Be alert;** being aware of other drivers and surroundings will help your reaction time.
- **Turn off auto-driving features;** turning off things like cruise-control give you full control of your vehicle.

What to do When Stranded

- **Stay in your vehicle;** your vehicle offers you the best protection from the weather and potential collisions with other vehicles.
- **Call 911 if possible;** turn on your hazards to alert other drivers.
- **Use items from your emergency car kit;** stay warm and hydrated.

[See More Winter Driving Resources](#)

Prevent Snow Shoveling Injuries

1. Keep the weight close to your body and lift smaller amounts of snow to reduce the strain on the spine.
2. Bend your knees and hips while keeping your back relatively straight.
3. Warm-up prior to shoveling such as doing some walking squats or stairs.

[Read the Full List of Tips Here](#)

Training Opportunities

Make 2020 Your Year to Grow!

The VTTC launched one-on-one career development coaching services to address the following crucial areas highlighted in AOT's Strategic Workforce Report: Quality of Life, Learning and Development, Supervisor and Manager, and Employee Retention. Trained VTTC staff can cover multiple topics and is happy with any other topics or questions employees would like to work on.

[Request Services](#)

Each month the VTTC sends out a Learning Opportunities eNewsletter where we highlight upcoming trainings both in-person and online available to Agency employees.

[View the latest Learning Opportunities eNewsletters](#)

[Browse all Trainings on the Learning Management System](#)

Agency Accolades

Employee Spotlight

This month we are highlighting **Todd Sears**, Agency of Transportation Emergency Management Director.

How long have you been with the Agency, and how long in your current position?

- I have been with the agency and in this position since March 2018.

What do you like most about the role you play in our Agency?

- The thing that most appeals to me about this work is that we are building programs from the ground up, and doing so by engaging with staff across the agency. It gives me a great perspective on the diversity of work we accomplish day to day across the many domains within which we are involved.

You recently assisted with the planning and execution of the state wide CAT 4 exercise; what were the goals of this exercise?

- There were five main objectives to the exercise.
- To evaluate:
 - the new Incident Command System;
 - our enhanced Transportation Management Center and its interaction with the

- State Emergency Operations Center;
- the Survey 123 Post-Disaster Field Damage Collection Tool;
- tasking, deployment, and operation of our agency's new Unmanned Aerial System (aka drone);
- ability of our airports to support National Guard Commodity Points of Distribution (CPOD) operations.

Can you share some advice for Agency employees looking for a role/ career in Emergency Management/ Preparedness?

- Emergency Management (EM) has a very wide breadth, as a profession.
- There are four phases of EM:
 - Planning/Preparation;
 - Response;
 - Recovery;
 - Mitigation.
- Each one requires its own level of expertise. The best way to become familiar with the profession is to make some time to talk with an EM professional. I'm happy to sit down with anyone who is interested and unpack the profession, answer questions, and provide guidance. Also, you can take any of the many FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) on-line courses, to get yourself oriented.

Have an idea on an AOT employee we should spotlight? Let us know!

Pathway to Supervision Graduates



Congratulations to Session 17 Graduates!

Front: Trystal Kovatis, Hunter Bovey

Middle: Victoria Biller, Anne Chagnon, Melissa Kucserik, Geoffrey Grant, James Ball, Steff Lemieux, Fianna Barrows, Evelyn McFarlane

Back: Michael Morris, Eric Lange, Tyler

Birchmore, Pat Wilson, William Atherton, Logan Roth-Longe, Gretchen King, Spence Howard, Chris Hebert

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