



Kansas LTAP Fact Sheet

A Service of The University of Kansas Transportation Center for Road, Street & Bridge Agencies

The Public Works Role in Emergency Management

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Public Works agencies are designated as first responders under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), so it's important for Public Works employees to know how to work with other first responders and what training is available.

This fact sheet discusses the role of Public Works agencies and FEMA and how you can learn more.

Often considered to be the “Silent Arm of Public Safety,” Public Works agencies and their employees play an important role in emergency management and disaster relief. Could you imagine if EMS, Police, and Firefighters couldn't access areas in need? Public Works agencies provide vital infrastructure that allows a community to respond to an emergency in a safe and efficient way. They're often the first ones on the scene and the last to leave.

Take for example the recent flooding that has plagued many communities across Kansas in

2019. Public Works agencies across the state instituted flood watches, created detours, notified and evacuated the public, determined when bridges were no longer safe to travel, and more.

To learn more about the many ways that Public Works agencies assist in emergency management, please watch the 20 minute video by clicking on the link below. In the video, Philip Mann, the Public Works Director for the City of Gainesville, FL, speaks on how Public Works and Emergency Management work to restore life line services to the public. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5i-oguCJ7Q&feature=youtu.be>

Emergency Preparedness Training

In 2003, President George W. Bush issued the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, which called for the creation of the National Incident Management System to help the government respond to emergencies. In response to this, the APWA, FEMA, and the

Emergency Management Institute partnered together to create online training programs required for all first responders, including those in public works.

In addition to these required courses, four supplemental courses were developed specifically for public works employees:

- IS-522 The Public Works Role in Emergency Management
- IS-554 Emergency Planning for Public Works
- IS-556 Damage Assessment for Public Works
- IS-558 Public Works and Disaster Recovery

To reward local agencies for emergency preparedness training, Kansas LTAP is now offering Roads Scholar Elective credit for the four courses above.

Public Works Role in Emergency Management and Public works and Disaster Recovery (IS-522 and IS-558) can be taken together as one elective credit for either Level One or Level Two of the Roads Scholar Program. Both certificates must be submitted to KS LTAP to be counted. If a student uses these classes as a Level One elective, they cannot be retaken for

the Level Two program and vice-versa. Damage Assessment for Public Works and Emergency Planning for Public Works (IS-554 and IS-556) can be taken together as one elective credit for the Level Three Roads Scholar Program. Both certificates must be submitted to receive credit.

These courses are free and each takes approximately 3 hours to complete. Each course has checkpoint questions throughout and a final exam that must be passed in order to receive credit for the course.

To take the final exam, students must register for a FEMA Student Identification Number. After completing the final exam, a certificate will be emailed to you. Email this certificate to kutc_training@ku.edu for credit.

Register here: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>

These courses can be found at the following FEMA website links:

bit.ly/FEMA552

bit.ly/FEMA554

bit.ly/FEMA556

bit.ly/FEMA558