OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

TRAINING TIP:
Response in Inclement Weather

Best practices for responding to incidents in inclement weather include:

- Maintain situational awareness because conditions can change rapidly and visibility may be limited.
- Never trust traffic approaching from either direction.
- Keep your head on a swivel.
- Plan an escape route.
- Avoid pinch points, including standing between vehicles or between a vehicle and a guardrail or median barrier.
- Collaborate with the National Weather Service (NWS) to verify weather conditions and obtain spot forecasts.



Responders at a multi-vehicle incident on March 15, 2026, near Greenwood, NE. Photo courtesy of Elmwood Fire and Rescue.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WINTER TIM

During severe weather, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) adjusts operations to maintain road safety and support an efficient response. Coordinated public messaging is established among the National Weather Service (NWS), Nebraska State Patrol (NSP), and NDOT.

Nebraska 511, maintained by the Traffic Management Center (TMC), is an excellent tool for staying informed about weather, road conditions, hazards, and more.

Nebraska's TMC operates 24/7 and can contact local staff for support requests.

Plowing operation times vary depending on the route, needs, and available resources. *Note: Plow locations are available on 511.*

Before the Storm

NDOT will pre-message impending storm events to the public using dynamic message signs (DMS), the 511 website, and social media.

NDOT, in collaboration with NSP, makes road closure decisions based on visibility, stalled vehicles, and snow/ice removal capacity. Rural roads may be deemed impassable rather than barricaded. Closure points adjust based on downstream capacity to avoid congestion and emergency sheltering needs.

During the Storm

NDOT plows follow assigned routes and may not respond immediately to law enforcement requests. Reporting trouble areas will assist NDOT in setting priorities. Various winter maintenance strategies and materials are used across the state. Materials designed to break ice bonds, rather than provide traction, are placed strategically, and some materials may not be available statewide.

After the Storm

Interstate openings are staggered as traffic clears. **Please do not share when the interstate will open**; doing so causes ramp stacking and safety risks.



DECEMBER STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, December 9, from 10–11:30 a.m. CT/9–10:30 a.m. MT for the Nebraska TIM Statewide Virtual Meeting, featuring:

Livestock Response

A panel of livestock industry representatives will lead a discussion on responding to roadway incidents involving livestock, covering responder safety, animal behavior, traffic control strategies, resource coordination, incident command integration, and lessons learned from real-world events to help responders safely and efficiently manage these unique and often complex incidents.

OCIO

Representatives from the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) will provide information on methods for agencies to work toward interoperable communications to support responder operations and the role the Statewide Radio System (SRS) plays in supporting interoperable communications.

Beyond the Basics: Advanced Warning

Presenters will discuss the importance of advanced warning and best practices for deploying advanced warning methods for different roadway types.

Statewide Updates

Bobbi Brooks, NDOT Highway Emergency Program Specialist and TIM Coordinator, will present on current program activities, including winter TIM, training, and resources.

Please register to attend – see you on December 9! All past Nebraska TIM Statewide Virtual Meetings are available on NDOT's TIM **YouTube playlist**.

CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK, NOVEMBER 2–6

Slow Down, Move Over. Lives are on the Line.



NDOT Director Vicki Kramer speaks at a 2025 Crash Responder Safety Week event. Photo courtesy of NDOT.

Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) is the perfect time to promote roadway safety by educating the public about safe, quick clearance! Resources are available at **Respondersafety.com** and the **National Operations Center of Excellence**. Please use the hashtag #CRSW and tag @NebraskaDOT and @NEStatePatrol when posting on social media.

NDOT is celebrating by hosting TIM Responder Training sessions across the state on November 4. These efforts support the national goal of 1 million responders trained. Register for sessions in Gering, Columbus, and North Platte via the **training website**.

Nebraska TIM: Safer, Together

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