Driven By Our Values

“Resourceful”, “dedicated”, “hard-working” are just a few of the words used to describe our workforce at the Department of Transportation.

Recently, I challenged our leadership team to reflect on the values within our organization that define NHDOT. Our group of 40 leaders, including commissioners, directors, assistant directors, bureau administrators and district engineers partnered with the State Employee Assistance Program and the Bureau of Education and Training in a series of exercises to identify the values that make NHDOT great. Each participant was asked five questions:

1. What do I value most about the people who work here?
2. What values have my peers exhibited that I believe make them good coworkers?
3. What positive values do I bring to the team?
4. What positive values are demonstrated throughout NHDOT as an organization?
5. What NHDOT values positively impact the citizens and stakeholders of New Hampshire?

At the end of the exercise, all the answers to each question were consolidated and all the answers to each question were combined. A “Wordle” software model was used to demonstrate the results. The more frequently the word was used in the questions, the larger it was displayed in the Wordle. This graphic is the visual representation of the heart of our organization: the values that align us in our common mission to provide “Transportation Excellence” in all aspects of our operations.

This newsletter showcases many examples of the commitment of NHDOT employees doing their jobs, supporting the transportation system, the traveling public and each other. The level of dedication to keep the state moving safely is consistently demonstrated in all we do day in and day out throughout the year, no matter what.

In this edition you will note the following examples of our commitment to being good stewards of New Hampshire’s transportation system and to the safety of its users.

- Responding to overturned garbage trucks
- Responding to multiple accident scenes, including safety operating the system for a medivac helicopter to land on the highway
- Responding to the accident scene and ensuing memorial Motorcycle Ride for the Fallen Seven
- Responding to flooding in Groton

Beyond what is in print, there are the everyday efforts and acts of individual employees who step up to do the right thing, because they care. That level of integrity and professionalism are largely responsible for the hard work which led to the dedication of the State of New Hampshire Public Works Memorial - devoted to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in our commitment to the transportation system and its users.
On the evening of July 11th a cold front passed across the Upper Valley area, producing heavy rain. One cell stalled directly over Mount Cardigan dropping documented rainfall amounts between 5.2 and 6.8 inches of rainfall. One local homeowner described the torrential rain as sheeting so heavily off his roof that he couldn’t see anything out of his windows for hours. The steep rocky shoulders of Cardigan rapidly shed the deluge in two directions, southwest to the Orange Basin located in the towns of Orange and Canaan; and to the northeast to the Spruce Ridge area through Sculptured Rocks and the Cockermouth River in Groton. These brooks and rivers swelled to record sizes and caused substantial damage to state and local highways and private property.

When daylight came on Friday July 12th, District Two personnel were busy assessing damage in multiple areas in these towns. Numerous homes were only accessible by foot. Rapid response from District Two forces along with private contractors Paige Excavation from North Haverhill, Remacle Excavation from Canaan, and Halls Excavation from Bridgewater had restored vehicular travel to all homes effected by 11 AM. Numerous aggregate suppliers stayed open late into the evening throughout the weekend to supply gravel and stone to repair crews. Trucks, equipment, and manpower came from all 14 Patrol Sections in District Two and two Bridge Maintenance crews for the tough job of rebuilding the state roads and one bridge on both sides of Cardigan Mountain. HB Logging of Monroe deployed a large grapple excavator and a tracked mobile remote controlled grinder chipper to remove whole trees, stumps and wooded debris that was plugging the inlet end of the multi-plate bridge on Monday the 15th, transporting them down all the way from Burlington, Vermont. Over 270 yards of chipped debris...
As early as September 2018, the Workforce Development Team began recruitment efforts towards hiring college students for the summer of 2019. Attending college career fairs, contacting previous interns and requesting current NHDOT employees as alumni to reach out to their schools or professors, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation has successfully hired a record 31 full-time summer interns – 5 of which are returning to the NHDOT for another season.

While this year’s interns hail from the Pacific Coast of California to our neighboring State of Maine, many of them cover all four corners of our home-state. These students are earning degrees at Clarkson, Columbia, New England College, Plymouth State, NHTI, UVM, WPI, Wentworth IT, Georgia Tech, U-Mass Amherst, SUNY Canton and University of New Hampshire. The versatility of their studies is evident in light of majors in Engineering (Civil, Mechanical, Aerospace, Architectural, Chemical, Transportation, Industrial, and Environmental). Colleges are also offering options in the field of environmental studies (Environmental Science, Environmental Planning and Environmental Engineering and Sustainability). Rounding out our interns’ majors are studies in Accounting, Physics and Geography - demonstrating to potential future candidates that the NHDOT is not only looking for Civil Engineering majors.

We are fortunate to accept 31 seasonal college interns this year and hope that those who won’t be seniors next year will return – but if they are completing their education, maybe they’ll come back to the NHDOT for more permanent employment (or at least recommend our internships and job opportunities to some friends).

With a growing interest in hiring bright young minds, our seasonal interns have been hired by the bureaus of Finance, AMPS, Construction, Environment, Highway Design, Materials & Research, Traffic, TSMO, Turnpikes and Highway Maintenance (HQ), as well as the offices in District 2, District 3 and District 6 and the Federal Compliance Office.
Telling the NH Department of Transportation Story

It was a road improvement project you’re likely to encounter anywhere in New Hampshire between April and November.

I was driving south on NH Route 3A in Bow on a sunny August day when a flagger up ahead was alerting motorists to a lane closure. A District 5 crew was doing some paving work.

I immediately felt the impulse to pull over and take some photos. I then remembered that’s not my job any more. It’s going to take a while.

Until I went to work for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, I probably viewed the NHDOT like many people – that State agency that interrupted my travels with road and bridge projects and the folks responsible for keeping the roads plowed in the winter. That was a long time ago. I have known for many years that the NHDOT is much more. I wanted others to know that too by telling the many transportation stories of so many hard working employees.

When you have a front row seat in the Executive Office for 24 years, you see and hear a lot. One thing that never changed among those I worked with (close to 40 Commissioners and Directors) was the desire from the top on down to improve transportation. That commitment to getting the job done right every day extended throughout the Department, from Pittsburg to Portsmouth.

There were so many events, from ribbon cuttings to storm recoveries to tours of transportation projects – improvements to the Everett and Spaulding Turnpikes, new bridges connecting New Hampshire and Maine, the Hillsborough Bypass, the Manchester Airport Access Road, the

Bill Boynton telling the story

Continued on page 11
All too often the efforts of public works employees are managed behind the scenes, their operations being an expectation, their efforts going unnoticed. Public Works departments, including the State of New Hampshire NHDOT are there, serving the public regardless of road conditions, the weather, and obligations at home. Public workers are often first on scene for accidents and other dangerous situations. The public has come to rely on that level of service and professionalism. Countless dedicated employees throughout the State of New Hampshire, on both the local and state level make this expectation a reality on a daily basis. Public Works employees can be called upon at any hour of the day, any day of the year and willingly respond to assure that everything “works” seamlessly for the public.

With this commitment come inherent dangers from the physical nature of the work, risks posed by the equipment needed to complete tasks, the conditions that these employees must work in, managing roadway traffic, and dealing with what Mother Nature delivers. Unfortunately, with these associated risks, fatalities do occur within the public works community. On June 5th of this year the New Hampshire Public Works community dedicated a memorial to those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for the public at large.

Intro by: Caleb Dobbins/Eileen Meaney
The road to the construction and dedication of our State of NH Public Works Memorial was supported on June 15, 2009, when Governor Lynch signed into law RSA 4:9 establishing a committee to oversee the design, construction, and maintenance of a Memorial for public works employees who have died performing duties on behalf of a municipality, a county, or the state. This committee selected a site for the memorial on the grounds of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation Building at 7 Hazen Drive in Concord in August of 2009.

From September 2010 to December of 2010, high school seniors and college students were invited to submit designs for the memorial. The design of Kelsie Lee, from Colby Sawyer College, was selected in early 2011 and Landscape Architect Cheri Ruane prepared detailed drawings. The memorial was dedicated and opened to the public on Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

What follows is a personal perspective from one individual who was intimately connected to the creation and construction of the Public Works Employee Memorial, Christine Bonoli-Stohlberg.

We are all so blessed to have this beautiful Memorial to Public Works Employees that brings much needed visibility and acknowledgement to the fact that so many public works employees have died from work related accidents. The Memorial project took 10 years to build because as the legislation passed in 2009, the economy fell into a downturn and larger dollar donations were hard to come by. In spite of this, the Committee held a design contest and by late 2010, a winner was selected and there were enough funds to pay a landscape architect to create the plans for the winning design. My role was to support all the voting and non-voting committee members with scheduling meetings, notes, email, agendas and minutes. When Butch Knowlton asked me to assist at the first meeting in late 2009, no one knew that my father who was union brick layer in the Boston area had fallen at work from a 14 story building on April 1, 1968, 41 years earlier. So for me, I felt connected to the Committee’s mission. As the 10 years evolved, I began to identify this type of connection in committee members and other staff at NHDOT. They all wanted to see this memorial completed because they had some significant personal connection or event in their life that gave this Memorial special meaning to them.

All of you here at NHDOT donated generously and I personally thank you for your donations whether it was by donating on the Go Fund Me page, writing a check, buying raffle tickets, supporting the Motorcycle Ride-in in 2014 (which was a great event) or everyone’s support in the construction effort over the last 11 months from leveling the site to plantings. All of your small and large donations of time, money and effort made this memorial rise up from a dried
This message summarizes the 42nd Annual 2019 NHDOT Safety Plow Rally held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at Pawtuckaway State Park, near the shores of Pawtuckaway Lake in Nottingham, NH, hosted by Maintenance District 6. The near perfect setting at the park is one of the best in New Hampshire with beautiful weather, a cool morning, and a warm and pleasant afternoon. The attendance was estimated at approximately 260 winter maintenance operations personnel, retirees, and their families and friends.

Assistant Commissioner Bill Cass welcomed everyone and wished the teams the best of luck in the competitions while thanking them for a challenging winter away from their families for extended periods while performing their duties.

Retirees in attendance include Highway Patrol Foreman Wayne Waterhouse, Maintenance Supervisors Mike Lane (District 3), and Butch Leel (District 4), Mechanical Services Mechanic Ivan Stevens, Bruce Inglis, and Charles Thorsell, District Engineers Pam Mitchell (District 5), Mark Morrill (District 3) and Mike Burlage (District 6), and Rick Davis (District 4), Lionel Chancy (District 5), Doug Almon, Dave Debutts, Jim Twombly (District 6).

Congratulations to the Contestants and all that participated. Thanks to Guests, Family Members, and District 6 Staff especially Warehouse Supervisor Rollin Rumford, Maintenance Supervisor Ken Mailhot, Highway Patrol Foremen Greg Dow for attendance sheets and his PS608 Epping crew, Highway Patrol Foreman Joe Whitten and his PS601 Milton crew including Scott Curtis, Kevin MaGoon, Nelson Morton, Zach Routhier and retired PS601 Foreman Wayne Waterhouse for the tasty lunch, Highway Patrol Foreman Fred Wallace, Hiram Bickford and his PS607 Exeter crew, Alissa Vos for the invitations, purchasing, quiz and overall scorekeeping, Debra Albertelli for quiz scorekeeping and lunch, and Bonnie Berry, Lucy Ford for providing water courtesy of a Kubota RTV from MB Tractor of Plaistow.

A special thanks also goes out to Pawtuckaway State Park Manager Dave Richardson and his assistant Marie for the use of their facility, Jeff Gibson from Cross Insurance for coffee and donuts, and others too many to mention who have made this yet another safe, enjoyable, and successful Plow Rally.

We hope to see everyone next year!
The Plow Rally provides an opportunity for NHDOT’s finest operators to demonstrate their skills in competitions, and to allow employees to present their ideas for safety and efficiency innovations. Proud to be NHDOT.

Gary Clifford has served on the Safety Plow Rally Committee for 23 years, with the last 20 serving as chairman. Special thanks to Gary for his efforts and coordination over the years.

Other members of the committee include:

**District 1** - Rob Glover, Maintenance Supervisor (primary) with Jason DeSellier, PS115 Lincoln Highway Patrol Foremen supplementing (secondary);

**District 2** – Dennis Ford, Maintenance Supervisor (primary) with Mark Avery, Maintenance Supervisor supplementing (secondary);

**District 3** – Roger Lamontagne, Maintenance Supervisor

**District 4** – Tom Mansfield, Maintenance Supervisor (primary) with Tyler Tommila, Construction Foreman supplementing (secondary);

**District 5** – Adam Dow, Construction Foreman

**District 6** – Rollin Rumford, Warehouse Supervisor (primary) with Ken Mailhot, Maintenance Supervisor supplementing (secondary);

**Turnpikes** – Vincent Benincasa, Maintenance Supervisor

**Mechanical Services** – John Rice, Heavy Equipment Mechanic

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**Texas Roll**

**District 5**

PS528 Derry

Sean Duda, Driver - Dave Fraser, Assistant

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**Overall Winning Teams**

**1st Place - District 6**

PS604 Northwood - Felix "Bub" Gardner, Driver

PS601 Milton - Tim Libby, Assistant

**2nd Place - District 1**

PS124 Franconia - Kyle Bryant, Driver

PS115 Lincoln - Tyler Jones, Assistant

**3rd Place - District 5**

PS528 Derry

Sean Duda, Driver - Dave Fraser, Assistant

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**Logo Design**

**1st Place- District 5**

Adam Dow, Construction Foreman

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**Innovations**

**1st Place - Working Tailgate**

District 5 - PS512 Londonderry

Designed by: Eric Costello & Maintenance crew

Fabricated by: Eric Costello & Maintenance crew

Used by: PS512 Londonderry

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**2nd Place - Truck Safety Step**

District 4 - PS410 Winchester

Designed by: Dave Campbell

Fabricated by: Dave Campbell

Used by: Dave Campbell & PS410 Winchester crew

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**3rd Place - Fork Lift Pintle Hitch**

Turnpikes - Hampton Maintenance

Designed by: Eric Follansbee

Fabricated by: Eric Follansbee

Used by: Turnpikes Hampton Maintenance Highway Maintainer 3’s

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**Backhoe Competition**

**1st Place - District 6**

PS604 Northwood

Jeff Smith, Highway Maintainer 3
42nd ANNUAL

NH DOT SAFETY PLOW RALLY - 2019
up patch of grass in front of the NHDOT building to a Memorial we’re all very proud of. The employees at the NHDOT are an extremely generous bunch!

The day of the dedication, I wish I could have spent some time with each of the 71 friends and family members who attended. If you think of it, for all those friends and family, being present at the dedication on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. was important enough for them to arrange being absent from work, to travel a distance, and to make any arrangements needed to be there. They wanted to be at this dedication because someone’s name was on the memorial that they knew and loved. Those I spoke with were extremely grateful their loved one could be recognized and continually thanked me and those around them. If you were able to meet any of them and talk with them, not only were they gracious and appreciative, they also wanted to share their stories.

Here at the NHDOT JOM and M&R building, I feel like we are the “hosts” of this memorial. With that in mind, as you walk around the memorial during breaks and lunch, and see unfamiliar faces sitting on the benches, think about if you might take a minute to welcome them. And if they want to chat, ask if they are here because they know someone on the memorial. If they do, chances are good they’ll also have a story they want to share with you about their friend.

Storm Damage - Continued from page 2

were removed in 8 hours. Structural repairs to the bridge, replacement of over 350 feet of guardrail along with the replacement of 26 compromised culverts are ongoing as this is written. It is hoped that the bridge is opened to two lane traffic by August 9th. Paving on all effected areas is also scheduled for the same time frame.

The Bureaus of Environment, Bridge Maintenance, Highway Maintenance and the Commissioner’s Office, along with the Select Boards and Highway Departments of the towns of Groton, Orange and Canaan also supported in the Department’s efforts to return these effected areas to normal conditions.

Friends and family honor the lost
Brian McCrea worked for NHDOT for 28 years and he retired on Friday May 31, 2019.

Pierre Parenteau is currently the longest tenured NHDOT employee. He began working for the Department in November of 1972. With a degree in history from UNH, Pete spent 12 years in the Survey Section of the Highway Design Bureau before moving to Bridge Design, where he has worked ever since as an engineering technician.

Faith Ellis devoted 31 years to the State of NH. She started at Personnel, then went to DHHS in Payroll then Turnpikes and spent over 10 years with NHDOT Bridge Maintenance. We were all very lucky to have had her as a Co-worker and friend.

Bill Boynton- Continued from page 4

introduction of E-ZPass and Open Road Tolling in Hampton and Hooksett, leading the way on delivering projects from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009, covered bridge repairs and restorations by skilled Bridge Maintenance crews, the I-93 project from Salem to Manchester, a NH Public Works Employee Memorial in 2019 to name a few.

Then there were the transportation “surprises” that forced quick mobilizations and responses; that giant sinkhole that suddenly opened up on I-93 in Concord; the Memorial Bridge failed an inspection and had to be closed immediately; a plane crashed on I-93 in Londonderry; the devastating Alstead flood of 2005, blizzards that closed Franconia Notch to traffic; a dam failure that washed away NH Route 140 in Alton. Whatever the disaster, the NHDOT has always been counted on to respond quickly, get to work, and repair the damage. It has always delivered.

“Transportation is something people only notice when it fails,” Commissioner Chuck O’Leary once said. This is true. But as Commissioner Carol Murray later said, “Transportation is the game board upon which everything else is played.” That is also true.

The NH Department of Transportation is vital to what makes living in New Hampshire special. You are the people who get things done and keep the State moving. You have proven that so many times every day and during times of crisis.

There were those numerous letters and e-mails over the years from grateful citizens who were “saved” by the NHDOT employees in the orange trucks who pulled up behind their broken down vehicles on busy highways. Many citizens wrote to praise the quality of the work performed by the NHDOT near their homes or businesses. I was always struck by the sheer dedication of so many employees.

I was very proud and determined to tell your stories. I’ll remember that every time I see an orange or white NHDOT vehicle across New Hampshire, even if I don’t stop and take a picture.
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**Retirees:**

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Personnel Updates

**New Hires:**
- Melissa A. Willis - Construction
- Zackary D. Dube - District 2, Crew 4
- Matthew R. Lockard - District 6, Crew 9
- Jonathan M. Hayes - District 2, Crew 1
- Laurent H. Cotnoir - District 2, Crew 10
- Jonathan A. Brown - Highway Design
- Todd G. Maloney - Traffic Pave Marking
- Joyce A. Poirier - Human Resources
- Thinh C. Tran - District 2, Crew 20
- Shawn R. Coffield - District 1, Crew 16
- Kelly E. Lynch - District 5, Crew 11
- Loretta G. Doughty - Highway Design
- Robert G. Grant - District 5, Crew 4
- Kenneth D. Nordquist - Mechanical Div-Concord
- Jason M. Ayotte - Highway Design
- Lloyd E. Foley - District 5, Crew 5
- Daniel A. Valdez - District 1, Crew 4
- Jeffery N. Berry - District 1, Crew 4
- Zackery A. Martin - District 1, Crew 8
- Gage M. Charron - District 1, Crew 8
- Melissa C. Carter - Maintenance
- Elaine Y. Clark - Bridge Maint-Concord
- Tandy M. Hartford - Finance And Contracts
- Richard R. Robbins - District 4, Crew 4
- E P. Segalla - District 6
- Tawnya M. Benoit - Finance And Contracts
- Abraham U. Demaio - Highway Design
- Craig M. Josselyn - Tpk-Hooksett Main Toll
- Zachary M. Smith - Construction

**Promotions:**
- Christopher Rose-Clark - Hwy Patrol Foreman, District 5
- Johnathan Ober - Highway Maintainer III, District 3
- Mark Avery - Supervisor III, District 2
- Peter George - Highway Maintainer III, District 6
- Matthew Mullen - Asst Hwy Patrol Foreman, District 1
- Douglas Hinton - Traffic Operations Technician, Traffic
- Robert Drown - Engineering Tech III, Materials & Research
- Richard Robinson - Bridge Construction Foreman, Bridge Maintenance
- Danielle Chandonnet - Financial Reporting Admin II, Finance
- Victoria Meyer - Business Systems Analyst I, Hwy Design
- Richard Turcotte - Highway Patrol Foreman, District 3
- Troy Comeau - Highway Patrol Foreman, District 2
- Jeffrey Collins - Bridge Construction Foreman, Bridge Maintenance
- Scott Wilkins - Highway Patrol Foreman, District 3
- Heidi Stortz - Engineering Technician V, Environment
- Adam Smith - Administrator III, Right-Of-Way
- Jonathan Vincent - Asst Hwy Patrol Foreman, District 5
- Eric Moore - Highway Maintainer III, District 1
Hi Victoria (and team),

At the Bedford Town Council meeting last night several Councilors made public statements about how much they appreciated all of the work NHDOT is doing in and around Bedford again this year and specifically called out Route 101, New Boston Road, the 293 Bridges, and even mentioned the future widening of the F.E. Everett Turnpike and stated that it all helps to improve our quality of life in the community. They were very happy with how the traffic has been handled through the Route 101 construction zone and like how it is turning out now that it has progressed far enough that they can see how it is going to look.

Thanks from Bedford for everyone’s hard work, dedication, and job well done.

Rick
Rick Sawyer, AICP
Bedford Town Manager
24 North Amherst Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Thank you NHDOT safety patrol for your assistance when I ran out of gas today. Roadside assistance was going to take 90 minutes to get there. I was hot, hungry and tired and your safety patrol assisted in less than 20 minutes with excellent customer service. Huge thank you from a desperate Mainer in an unfamiliar vehicle just happy to be back on her way!

Cindy Burton

To all staff at the NH Dept of Highways:

My husband and I drove from Boston to Lancaster, NH and back this weekend for a memorial gathering. The grounds surrounding Interstate 93 were breath-taking, full of wild flowers that had clearly been planted, cultivated and left un-mown so that we drivers could enjoy the scenery. Kudos to you. We always notice the vegetation as part of our trip enjoyment. This was our first time driving this route at this particular time of year, but it will not be our last. The lupins were particularly magnificent. Thank you, thank you. You deserve major publicity for this season’s blooms!

With gratitude,
Mary and Sherif Nada

Hello,

I want to say thank you so very much for the gorgeous flowers your department has planted along I93. I truly love and appreciate them more than you know.

Love to you all,
Julie Pagliarulo

Good afternoon.

My name is Mark McClintic and I’m a resident of the great State of NH (Milton). This past Saturday morning I was returning home from a friend’s house in Mass and was towing his trailer loaded with a 7500 lb. skid steer. As I crossed the state line into NH, the right front trailer tire blew out and left me stranded on the roadside without the spare that was sitting in my friends’ garage…. Lol

As I sat and contemplated my next move, Chris T from NHDOT Roadside assistance pulled up. I wasn’t sure how he could help but was certainly willing to listen.

Chris T took charge. He investigated the scene and produced a plan towards resolution. The entire episode took me less than two hours and I was back on the road home again.

I wanted to take the time to write this note for several reasons, but primarily because I don’t think I’ve ever met a person that was more suited for his job than Chris T!! He truly enjoyed meeting and helping people and he was genuinely good at it!

I’m confident that I’d still be stuck someplace in NH trying to get back on the road if it wasn’t for the fact that NHDOT has such an impressive roadside assistant program and the wisdom to hire such an incredible individual as Chris T

As a side note, I tried to offer Chris T cash as a tip for his help and he refused my attempt, shook my hand and said he was happy to have been assistance. Wow...what a GREAT person !

If Governor Sununu feels it’s the right thing to do, I would highly recommend that he shakes Chris’ hand and congratulates him for being such an integral part of the State’s offerings.

Thank you,
Mark McClintic
Backhaul Engineering LLC
Message from NHDOT Safety Committees:

Overexertion is one of the top 3 reasons for work related injuries at NHDOT. Please be sure to ask for assistance with heavy or bulky lifting projects.

Stretching is a tool that can be used to reduce impacts of overexertion. A lack of stretching can result in muscles becoming tight, and when they do, they lose effectiveness and joints become limited in their range of motion. This in turn, can increase the chance of injury. Tight muscles are weak muscles and over time can lead to poor postural habits, stiffness and pain. Stretching increases blood flow, this can also help counteract stress and may even help you sleep better.

When possible try to fit in a few simple stretching exercises:

For more information about stretching program opportunities contact Joe McCue, Wellness Coordinator, at 271-0559 or by email.

Good Morning!

I just wanted to pass along a kudos to the NHDOT driver on Route 77/13 this morning at about 8:05 am who stopped to allow a turtle to safely cross the road! Sometimes it’s the little things that catch our attention and this brought on a big smile. What a pleasant way to start the day!

Thanks again!

Regards,
Jaime M. Colby, P.E.,
Supervisor
NH Department of Environmental Services

Why Does a Turtle Cross the Road? by Arin Mills, Environmental Manager

Well, to get to the other side, of course! Primarily in June and July we have all witnessed a turtle in the roadway, these are likely female turtles heading to their favorite nesting location. Female turtles will travel great distances, sometime miles, from their winter hibernation locations to sandy areas to lay their eggs. Unfortunately, these travels commonly take them across our roadways where they are vulnerable to strikes from traveling vehicles.

The NHDOT considers wildlife passage, including turtles, in many of our projects through the Bureau of Environment (BOE) Review process. Culvert and bridge designs, such as elimination of perched inlets/outlets and baffles, are two methods which allow turtles to more easily pass safely through the structure, rather than forcing them to use the roadway. During construction the Department also frequently uses wildlife friendly erosion control matting to limit entrapment near sensitive areas. This matting is made of biodegradable material which will stabilize the area after construction and breaks down in the environment over time. A thoughtful design can lead to a great benefit to many species which also utilize our roadways.