

# TxDOT launches campaign to help reduce traffic deaths



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The Texas Department of Transportation launched a campaign this year to educate drivers on safely navigating road conditions in inclement weather and through road construction.

“We want to educate people that if they just do some simple things — like driving slowly, turning on your lights, increasing your following distance — those types of things can save your life and you can save someone else’s,” said TxDOT spokeswoman Michelle Raglon.

The Drive to Conditions campaign focuses on tips for driving in fog, heavy rain, winter weather and congested traffic.

Dallas firefighter Scott Tanksley died in February when he was struck by a car whose driver lost control on an icy highway overpass. Tanksley was responding to another weather-related accident at the time. Although his death was illustrative of the problem, TxDOT officials had already been planning their education campaign long before he was killed.

And while icy road conditions may be over for now, a rainy spring can bring heavy flooding.

It doesn’t take much to float a heavy automobile, officials say. Drivers should keep headlights on and never attempt to cross a flooded roadway, Raglon said.

Motorists should slow their speed in construction zones and also should check highway conditions before driving, she said.

But the most important tip for driving safely is to wear a seat belt.

“It makes a serious difference in a serious injury or a fatality,” Raglon said.

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