

# Meet the People Who Work on Our Highways

State of Nebraska  
Department ♦ of ♦ Roads



# *Their work never ends!*

You will see them on the highway filling potholes in the spring, mowing the right-of-way in the summer, repairing hazardous cracks in the fall, and plowing snow in the winter.

When you don't see them, they are monitoring construction projects and obtaining valuable information that helps the Nebraska Department of Roads plan, design, and maintain a safe and efficient highway system.

These men and women are:

*Maintenance Workers*

*Supervisors*

*Surveyors*

*Inspectors*

*Project Managers*

*Private Contractors*

Meet the people who work on our highways...



# Highway Maintenance Worker...

The primary job of the Maintenance Worker is to maintain the State's highways and rights-of-way.

*Maintenance Workers are truly jacks-of-all-trades. They repair roads with asphalt or concrete, repair bridges and guardrails, fill cracks, operate many kinds of equipment, mow, clear drainage systems, pick up litter, cut shrubbery, and put up signs.*

Those are only a few of the things that are done on an average work day. There is also emergency work. Snowstorms, floods, and traffic accident repairs require Maintenance Workers to be ready to handle whatever crisis may arise on the highways.

The Maintenance Worker is on call at any time. In the winter, they spread sand and gravel for ice control and plow snow as soon as it is deep enough.



In the spring, flooding can cause great damage to bridges and highways. Immediate repair is essential to the overall condition of these structures and the Maintenance Workers are first on the scene.

Anything you can imagine that exists or happens between the fence line and the highway, and on the road itself, must be taken care of. That is why you will see the orange trucks along the side of a road. You will also see tractors, mowers, loaders, backhoes, draglines, and motor graders.

**The primary objective of the maintenance staff of the Nebraska Department of Roads is to keep the highways safe for the motoring public.**

Cleaning a ditch or filling shoulder cracks may not look like safety work, but if this is not done, a problem could result that would affect the roadway and threaten the traveling public.

## *Maintenance Supervisor...*

The Highway Maintenance Supervisor organizes the work crews, assigns the jobs and number of people for each activity after consultation with the Maintenance Superintendent. They determine the equipment, the materials, and the quantities of material needed.

*It is the Supervisor's job to inspect the highways in his or her area for future work as well as seeing that crews take care of any emergency work.*

Supervisors do a lot of record keeping. In the field, they make notes of work done and work needed to be scheduled. In the office, they must account for all the equipment and materials used. They keep track of the hours and each activity performed by the maintenance crews.

**The Maintenance Supervisors and their crews are “front line” people.** When you see Department of Roads’ trucks and equipment on the highways, chances are they belong to the men and women who work every day to keep our highways safe and free of hazardous conditions.



# Highway Surveyor...

You have probably seen a survey crew working along the highway. A survey party normally consists of two to five people. One person takes notes, one person operates the transit, another must run the rod, while another measures the precise distance. Often, survey parties must work with fewer people, and the jobs are overlapped.

*Surveying is very exact, technical and time-consuming work. Surveying is often done several times on a site because of the different kinds of information needed. Preliminary surveys are taken for the design stages indicating the lay of the land. Another survey will be needed, before actual work can begin, to see how things have changed. Post construction surveys can determine the quantities of dirt that have been moved.*

A survey party spends the entire day taking measurements, driving stakes, recording information, and determining exact distances for specific purposes. Although there is electronic equipment to assist in this job, crew members mainly work with some type of transit instrument and record a large number of measurements.

