

Safety

2019

Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction

Bret Hicks

Maintenance Superintendent
Department of Transportation

Bret Hicks was selected for his commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the 90 employees he supervises and the driving public.

Responsible for road maintenance activities in six Southwest Missouri counties, Mr. Hicks makes decisions regarding snow removal, asphalt road repair, resurfacing, and miscellaneous bridge repair. Throughout the year, day and night, often in inclement weather, crews of his employees are on the roadways of Missouri frequently working in construction zones.

Embracing *Gear Up*, a MoDOT initiative that ensures new employees receive as much training as possible before going into the field, Mr. Hicks is committed to giving employees as much hands on training as possible before going into the field.

Safety is such a high priority, he has empowered all his employees to stop an operation that is in progress if they determine it is unsafe.

Mr. Hick's commitment to safety is due to his desire to ensure employees return home from work after their shift, and from the experience of losing a co-worker, Will Crain, who was killed in a work zone accident years ago.

Through his commitment to the wellbeing of his employees, everyday Bret Hicks honors a fallen co-worker and the memory of his friend Will Crain.