



TALKING POINTS

October 2026

US GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- National First Responders Day (NFRD) is October 28. To mark the occasion, APWA President Robert Garland and Government Affairs Committee Chair Adisa Aarons will host a virtual town hall. Registration opens soon!
- APWA Senior Government Affairs Manager Marty Williams will attend APWA Wisconsin's fall conference in Onalaska, October 28–30. Marty will discuss the value of a chapter-level government affairs committee.
- Save the date! Crash Responder Safety Week is November 2–6.
- Due to midterm elections, Congress will be out of session this month. The next issue of the [APWA Washington Report](#) will be November 9.

Follow APWA Government Affairs on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Members interested in reviewing a summary of August's APWA Board of Directors meeting may do so by [clicking here](#).

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE NEW INITIATIVES PROGRAM



Have an idea that could strengthen public works or bring new value to APWA members? The Fall 2026 New Initiatives Program is now accepting Phase 1 applications through November 12. [Learn more and apply.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

33,866

ACCREDITATION

Region 3:

- Greenville County, South Carolina Public Works Department—1st accreditation

Region 4:

- Covington, Georgia Public Works Department—6th accreditation

Region 6:

- Overland Park, Kansas Public Works Department—6th accreditation

Upcoming Accreditation Events:

October 20, APWA Accreditation Open Forum: "Do You Need Outside Help?" [Register here.](#)

CERTIFICATION

APWA is excited to announce an update to the Certified Public Fleet Professional (CPFP) program that will launch in late 2027. Eligibility applications for the current program will be accepted through December 31, 2026. Following this deadline, applications will be paused as we transition to the new fleet microcredential program.

[Learn more about the new fleet microcredentials.](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Focus on Public Works](#) | [Tell Your Story](#) | [Education/Credentialing Center](#) | [Technical Committees](#)
[Groups and Committees](#) | [Council of Chapters](#) | [Washington Report](#) | [Legislative Action Center](#) | [Ottawa Report](#)

EDUCATION

UPCOMING LIVE PROGRAMS

October 22. **From Data to Decisions: Artificial Intelligence in Winter Maintenance.** AI is no longer a future concept, it is now a valuable tool for winter maintenance agencies. This program will showcase how public works organizations are leveraging AI to support operational decision-making, analyze route and fleet data, enhance public communications, and promote the important work performed by frontline winter maintenance staff. [Register here.](#)

November 5. **The Human Side of Operational Leadership.** Leadership goes beyond managing performance—it requires navigating the human challenges employees may face, often in high stress, time-sensitive environments. Join us for this live virtual program as we explore practical approaches to supporting employees through difficult circumstances while maintaining accountability, safety, reliability, and operational continuity. [Register here.](#)

UPCOMING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

[Winter Maintenance Operator Certificate](#)

October 6–7. This virtual certificate program is targeted towards staff in the trucks performing winter operations, including operators, crew leaders, and foremen. The program focuses on how snow and ice control materials work, equipment, and operations.

NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE

[Asset Management Roadmap](#)

Developed by the Asset Management Committee, this practical resource is designed to support agencies at every stage of their asset management journey. The roadmap outlines key concepts, objectives, and strategies that can help organizations make informed infrastructure decisions, strengthen long-term planning, and maximize the value of public assets.

[Sustainability and Resiliency Online Learning Library](#)

The Sustainability and Resiliency Committee developed this online learning library to provide a starting point for APWA members to quickly access sustainability and resiliency content. The first two modules of water resources management and solid waste management have been completed.

CONFERENCE UPDATES

Call for Presentations is open for PWX 2027!



Interested in sharing your experience in a presentation? The 2027 PWX [Call for Presentations](#) is open. The deadline to submit a session proposal is October 30, 2026.

Planning is underway for Snow Conference!



Share your knowledge and experiences at NASC 2027 in Des Moines, Iowa, April 18–21, 2027. The [deadline for submissions](#) is October 2, 2026.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

RECOGNIZE NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY IN THE US ON OCTOBER 28



Support public works visibility in your local community by celebrating October 28 as National First Responders Day. Review our [NFRD toolkit](#) to find a variety of promotional materials to help you spread the word. You'll find:

- A customizable sample proclamation to submit to your governor's or mayor's office.
- A new National First Responders Day emblem you can add as a watermark to first responder photos or video clips.
- NFRD-themed photo frame designs, sample social media posts, and a suggested posting schedule.
- 15- and 30-second radio PSAs to share with local stations.

SAVE THE DATES FOR #PWR!



[Public Works Radio](#) is the official voice of APWA, bringing the stories behind our communities to life. This month's episodes drop on **October 7 and 21**.

PWR is available wherever you find your favorite podcasts, as well as on [APWA TV](#). Listen, subscribe, and share with a friend! Direct any inquiries to podcast@apwa.org.