

Road Worker Safety



Road Worker Safety

- More roadwork is being performed on roadways that are open to traffic everyday
- Traffic continues to grow and create more congestion
- To avoid major peaks during travel season, more work is being done at night
- Each year over 20,000 workers are injured in road construction work zones

Road Worker Safety

- Primary causes of workers fatalities are:
 - Runovers/Backovers (48%)
 - Collision Between Vehicles/Mobile Equipment (14%)
 - Caught in Between/Stuck by Construction Equipment and Objects (14%)

Road Construction Work Zone Safety Tips

- Have a Plan
- Properly Control Traffic
- Create Separate Work Areas
- Wear Proper Safety Equipment
- Be Aware of Your Surroundings



Road Construction Work Zone Safety Tips

- Avoid Blind Spots
- Have a Competent Person on Hand
- Start Each Workday with a Safety Meeting
- Have a Site Specific Safety Program
- Stay Hydrated

Have a Plan

Transportation Management Plan

- Temporary traffic control plan to protect workers by safely conducting traffic around or through the work zone.
- Traffic control plan for inside the work zone that manages the flow of heavy equipment, construction vehicles, and workers

Properly Control Traffic

A work zone should consist of –



- Advance warning area with **warning signs** alerting motorists of upcoming **changes** in driving conditions
- A transition area using **traffic control devices** for lane closures and traffic pattern shifts
- Traffic control plan for **inside** the work zone that manages the flow of heavy equipment, construction vehicles, and workers
- Termination area to allow traffic to **resume** back to normal and a **sign** indicating that the work zone has ended

Create Separate Work Areas

- Use cones, barrels, and barriers to clearly delineate specific areas of the work zone



- Specific areas can be:
 - Material storage
 - Areas where heavy equipment is being used
 - Vehicle parking
 - Safe areas for workers on foot to move about

Wear Protective Safety Equipment

- Should be used by ALL personnel inside the work zone
 - Hard hats
 - Steel-toe boots
 - Highly visible clothing
 - Hearing protection – depending on noise level
 - All PPE should meet or exceed ANSI standards





Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Always be mindful of what is going on around you!

- Avoid walking behind any vehicles that may be backing up or into the swing radius of heavy equipment.
- Whenever possible, face traffic while inside the work zone
- Have a spotter available when your back is turned.
- Spotters should also be used to
 - Monitor the movement of vehicles and heavy equipment inside the work zone
 - Monitor traffic to alert workers to any potential dangers

Avoid Blind Spots

Vehicles are **ALWAYS** moving about inside a work zone

- All mirrors and visual aids devices must be attached and operating properly
- This includes backup alarms and lights
- The driver has a limited line of sight.
- If on foot or working near vehicles or machines **ALWAYS**:
 - Stay in visual contact with the driver
 - If you can't see them, they don't see you!

Have a Competent Person on Hand

Competent Person –

Someone “capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings, or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.”



Have a Competent Person on Hand

Competent Person –

- Select the PPE to be used
- Approve the appropriate types of traffic control devices
- Workers should report any unsafe hazards or equipment so they can be corrected immediately

Start Each Workday with a Safety Meeting

Conditions can change each day

- A quick safety meeting before works begin
- Workers should be debriefed on the work activity scheduled each day
- Notify of all potential hazards
- Ensure all are wearing proper PPE required for the day

SAFETY FIRST

Have a Site Specific Safety Program

- Each construction project is different
- Each work zone has its own unique hazards
- A site specific program will include –
 - Hazard identification
 - Plans to control them
 - Schedules to inspect all equipment and material routinely
 - First Aid and emergency medical care plan
 - Schedule of safety trainings

Stay Hydrated

- Asphalt absorbs 95% of the sun's rays
- Asphalt temperatures can easily be 30°F or higher than the surrounding air temperature
- Workers should drink plenty of water or liquids high in electrolytes
- Workers should get out of the heat and sun as much as possible specially on extremely hot days to avoid heatstroke, dehydration, and heat exhaustion

