

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC: Workzone Traffic Safety

Employees being struck by vehicles or mobile equipment on a construction job site lead to many work zone fatalities or injuries. Work zones are required to have traffic controls identified by signs, cones, barrels and barriers. Drivers, employees on foot, and pedestrians must be able to see and understand the proper routes. Construction project managers should determine traffic control plans within construction worksites. These plans are often reviewed and approved by the local public entity prior to work beginning and may have to be modified as the job progresses.

- Traffic control devices, signals, and message boards instruct drivers to follow paths away from where work is being done.
- Approved traffic control devices, including cones, barrels, barricades, and delineator posts are also used inside work zones.

Work Zone Protections: Various concrete, water, sand, collapsible barriers, crash cushions, and truck-mounted attenuators can help limit motorist intrusions into construction work zones.

Flagging: Flaggers should wear high visibility clothing with a fluorescent background and made of retroreflective material. This makes employees visible for at least 1,000 feet in any direction. Check the label or packaging to ensure that the garments are performance class 2 or 3. Drivers should be warned with signs that there will be flaggers ahead. Flaggers should use STOP/SLOW paddles, paddles with lights, or flags (only in emergencies).

All employees are required to wear traffic safety vests at all times on construction sites. Job site Superintendents should ensure that methods are devised to ensure employees are not exposed to public traffic and/or job site traffic. All construction equipment operating on the site must have functional horns and backup alarms as required by OSHA regulations. Employees are not permitted to cross public streets unless they are adequately protected by an approved traffic plan and/or they cross at a designated controlled intersection (do not cross a public road with live traffic in the middle of the intersection). Employees may also be ferried in and out of work zones via company vehicle.

Lighting: Flagger stations should be illuminated. Lighting for employees on foot and for equipment operators should be at least 5 foot-candles or greater. Where available lighting is not sufficient, flares or chemical lighting should be used. Glare should be controlled or eliminated. Class 3 vests must be used for night work.

Training: Flagger must be trained and certified by a CDOT approved instructor and use authorized signaling methods. Employees moving in or out of work zones must be trained to the approved method for safe transitioning in or out of the work zone.

Signature of Employees in Attendance: Date _____

Provided by: Hellman & Associates, Inc., www.ehscompliance.com, 303-384-9828

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