

# safety matters

Construction  
Toolbox Talks for

From your safety partners at Cool Insuring Agency, Inc.

## Roadside Traffic Controls

Even when you and your crew think you are safe, some drivers can make working on the roadside potentially deadly. If a motorist is confused, not paying attention or driving recklessly, you could be in grave danger while on a job site.

When a worksite involves moving traffic, it is up to the roadside workers to protect the public and themselves from dangerous accidents. Remember these safety tips while you are on the job.

### Plan Ahead

Traffic controls should be implemented prior to the start of the roadwork by driving through the proposed traffic pattern.

- This dry run will allow you to make changes to the route so that it makes sense to motorists.
- If you notice any obstacles or areas that may be confusing, change them before beginning the work.

### Signs

- Follow the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices provided from the U.S. Department of Transportation found at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov> and your local and state regulations regarding proper signage and barricading.
- Place warning signs at least 1,000 feet before the start of the work zone.
- Signs should be highly visible and in good working order.

### Barricades

- Place space cones, barrels and other devices used to guide traffic close together throughout the construction site.
  - Motorists should not be able to deviate from the path you feel is safest for them to travel.

### Safety Gear

- Wear hard hats, Day-Glo® or orange vests during the day and light-reflective strips at night.

### Flagging Duties

At least one employee should act as the traffic control person.

- Control traffic with a highly visible sign paddle during the daytime.
- Flaggers should carry two-way radios to communicate with other employees.
- Alert motorists of the presence of flaggers by placing signage at least 500 feet from the beginning of the work zone.

### Vehicle Specifications

- All vehicles must have backing alarms, two-way radios and signs indicating "Slow Moving."
- All vehicle operators should be properly trained on how to operate the equipment.
- Place cones around vehicles parked on

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the side of the road to warn motorists to slow down and watch out for them.

#### **Take Extra Precautions at Night**

- Increase warning distances for signage.
- Flaggers should use orange-cone flashlights to guide traffic.
- Place flashing lights on barricades.
- Tape off excavation site access.