



SAFETY SHARE

Roadway Work Zones

It's always good to refresh ourselves on the importance of being alert and working safely around roadways and traffic. In addition to the normal work hazards that are present in the actual work that we do we are also exposed to traffic hazards. This significantly increases the risk of injury for all crew members.

When working around traffic and other roadway hazards the following general rules should be observed:

1. **BE VISIBLE!!** Wear your safety vests and hard hats. Both have reflective and bright colored material designed to make you visible to others. *If you are working at night wear reflective pants in addition to your safety vest!*
2. Unless absolutely necessary, remain inside of the work zone marked by cones, concrete barriers or other types of barriers. They are designed to alert traffic to you and to help keep you as far away from traffic as possible.
3. **If you are flagging – Always keep your attention on the traffic in the area.** Do not turn your back on traffic. As a flagger, **you** are responsible for the protection your co-workers by keeping traffic out of the work area and warning them of traffic dangers that may arise.
4. All crew members need to be aware of their surroundings. **BE ALERT!!** Watch out for one another. **Communicate** with each other.
5. While working within the work zone keep equipment speeds to a minimum...especially if working in tight areas. It is easy to be caught between moving machinery in such cases. Crush injuries are very damaging and recovery is difficult.
6. At the beginning of each day/shift review the planned work activities for that day/shift and discuss the hazards that might be encountered. Have a short toolbox meeting!
7. If paving takes the crew from an inactive roadway onto an active roadway, then a work zone needs to be set up to direct traffic away from, or around, the work area even if the work is of short duration. Defined work zones are there to save lives and equipment.
8. Keep tools (such as rake handles) from extending into the path of oncoming traffic.

When at all possible, always remain facing traffic so that you can react if a vehicle enters the work zone.

Be Alert, Be Visible and Know the Hazards of Your Work Zone!!