

Working Safely in Work Zones

Safety in our work zones is vital to the safety of our projects. Please follow this work zone safety information on your temporary traffic control projects:

- Wear retro-reflective personal protective equipment, which includes:
 - ANSI Class II vest (for daytime work) or ANSI Class III vest (for nighttime work)
 - Hard hat
 - Safety glasses
 - Steel-toed boots
- Ensure that a Traffic Control Plan has been developed and implemented for the project.
- Work with federal, state, and local agencies to implement traffic control regulations and guidelines. Access your state's MUTCD at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>.
- Identify and implement appropriate speed limits for work zones.
- Ensure adequate separation between workers and traffic.
- Provide nighttime illumination wherever workers are present.
- Use appropriate safety devices such as cones, drums, and a truck-mounted attenuator when working in a closed travel lane.
- Clearly identify and mark routes for workers and vehicles to safely enter and exit work areas.
- Make sure heavy equipment operators know where workers are and workers know where equipment is. A majority of worker fatalities in work zones are because equipment in the work zone hit the worker
- Work with law enforcement to enforce speed limit and appropriate work zone boundaries.
- Face traffic whenever possible rather than turning your back to traffic. If you must work with your back to traffic, designate a spotter.
- Have a plan for escaping your work area to a safe location.
- Avoid using cell phones, radios, iPods or other electronic devices while in a work zone. These devices can draw your attention away from equipment and traffic.

Facts:

In 2007, over 800* people died in work zone crashes. Each year, more than 40,000* people are injured as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.

**Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration*