What About Construction Equipment?

Treat equipment and vehicles with caution:

- Stay out of "blind spots."
- Communicate with operators by radio and/or eye contact.
- Don't approach until you communicate with the operator and he/she acknowledges you.
- Stay outside a "safety circle" around equipment. If you can't see the operator, he/she can't see you.
- Stay clear of vehicles. Know the traffic control plan.
- Use spotters when you must work with your back to equipment or traffic.

Can We Be Safe When Placing TCDs?

Simple precautions make placement of Traffic Control Devices (TCDs) safer:

- Wear a Class III vest to be easily seen.
- Place, relocate, or remove TCDs when the traffic flow is light.
- When possible, work from a platform on the vehicle.
- Use seat, seatbelt, fall restraint, or guardrail and a handhold when the guardrail must be removed.
- Stay in constant communication with the driver.
- Use a shadow vehicle to warn drivers.
- Plan work as a “moving work zone” with proper mobile warning devices.
  - Arrow panels or changeable message boards, flashing vehicle lights, truck/trailer-mounted attenuators.
Can We Be Safe Near Equipment and Traffic?

Being struck is the biggest danger in road work. Workers on foot must remain alert at all times. Check surroundings often. Listen for warnings. Keep a safe distance from traffic. Stay behind barriers where possible. Look out for each other. Warn coworkers.

Safety clothing for road work comes in Class I, Class II, and Class III categories.

Class I garments are for use in activities that permit the wearer’s full and undivided attention to approaching traffic. There should be ample separation of the worker from traffic, which should be traveling no faster than 25 miles per hour.

Class II: For workers in inclement weather and/or in areas with complex backgrounds, where attention may be diverted from approaching traffic, where worker is in close proximity to traffic, where vehicles and equipment travel at speeds greater than 25 mph, and/or in the right of way of any Federal aid highway project. Examples include roadway construction workers, utility workers, survey crews.

Class III: For work when exposed to high speed traffic and/or conditions where visibility of workers may be reduced. For conditions where equipment operators perform tasks near workers on foot. Worker must be conspicuous through a full range of body motions at a minimum of 1,280 feet and indentifiable as a person. Examples include flaggers, roadway construction workers, utility workers, survey crews, emergency responders.

What Other Precautions Do We Need?

Employers must provide proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Workers must wear it:

- Proper class of safety vest at all times in the work zone.
- High-visibility clothing and headgear. 

Safety clothing for road work comes in Class I, Class II, and Class III categories.