

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Flagging Safety 101

As a very important part of the construction crew, flaggers ensure that other workers can get the job done by diverting traffic away from the job site. They are required on construction sites where barricades and signs cannot successfully divert traffic. This position can be extremely dangerous in high-speed areas or in the presence of aggressive drivers.

Flaggers must have a sense of responsibility for the safety of the public and workers and be trained in safe traffic control practices.

Flaggers must be in good physical condition (including vision and hearing), be mentally alert, and have the ability to react quickly in an emergency.

High-visibility Clothing

For daytime work, the flagger's vest, shirt, or jacket shall be either orange, yellow, yellow-green, or a fluorescent version of these colors. For nighttime work, similar outside garments shall be retroreflective. The retroreflective material shall be either orange, yellow, white, silver, yellow-green, or a fluorescent version of these colors, and shall be visible at a minimum distance of 1,000 ft. The retroreflective clothing shall be designed to clearly identify the wearer as a person.

Hand Signaling Devices

Hand signaling devices such as STOP/SLOW paddles, lights, and red flags, are an essential part of controlling traffic in temporary control zones.

The STOP/SLOW paddle should be the primary and preferred hand-signaling device because the paddle gives road users more positive guidance than red flags. Use of flags should be limited to emergency situations.

Hand signaling devices not only have required design dimensions but have required methods of use. These methods are designed to keep the flagger out of the way of traffic and yet give the traffic direct visible guidance as to the action which the flagger requires. It is very important to know how to use the STOP/SLOW paddles and flags correctly.

The most important thing all flaggers must remember is to NEVER place your body or any part of your body in the path of a motor vehicle.

Stop/Slow Paddles

Stop/slow paddles shall have an octagonal shape on a rigid handle. The paddles shall be at least 18 in. wide with letters at least 6 in. high and should be fabricated from light semi-rigid material. The background of the Stop face shall be red with white letters and border. The background of the Slow face shall be orange with black letters and border. When used at night, the Stop/Slow paddle shall be retro reflectorized. The Stop/Slow paddle may be modified to improve night visibility by incorporating white flashing lights.

