



Toolbox Talk

Topic: Traffic Control Devices

Traffic control devices are markers, signs and signal devices used to inform, guide and control traffic, including pedestrians, motor vehicle drivers and bicyclists. They serve as a visual warning and offer little physical protection. A safety plan that includes setting up warning signs and a buffer work area should be determined before placing traffic control devices.

To avoid hazards, first ask yourself a few questions:

1. What traffic control devices do we have in place on this job?
2. How do the current traffic conditions affect our operations?
3. What are the risks when either of these change (devices and operations)?
4. Can I plan my work so I can face the direction of traffic?

Hazards	Precautions
Speeding cars	Flaggers should stand where drivers have enough time to see them before their vehicle approaches the crew. Check the traffic control plan to have proper advanced warning.
Impaired drivers	Be alert. Plan work areas to have an escape route. Always work facing traffic.
Road debris	Any object on the road can become a projectile. Clear work zone debris where possible and wear proper PPE.
Changing conditions	COMMUNICATE! When traffic detour routes change, all affected personnel must be notified. Make sure qualified flaggers are signaling traffic and follow the traffic control plan exactly. If flaggers are far ahead of the work zone, determine how they will communicate to the work crew. Provide radios, whistles or airhorns so they can alert the crew of changing conditions.
Personnel exposure	When possible, plan operations during non-peak traffic hours. Only allow those with required tasks should be in the exposure area. Stay as far away from traffic as possible.

How can you avoid and prevent traffic control hazards? Ask your team to identify five hazards and precautions associated with traffic control. Challenge them to identify the hazards before reviewing above.

