



Toolbox Talk

Topic: Traffic Control I – Flagging

All flaggers must be trained and certified before flagging traffic on job sites. Flaggers play a critical role in maintaining public safety and crew safety. Flaggers must be prepared for work with appropriate personal protective equipment, including hardhat, Class II or III retroreflective clothing, glasses and weather protection.

Flaggers must also be able to:

- Receive and communicate specific instructions clearly, firmly and courteously.
- Move and maneuver quickly in order to avoid danger from errant vehicles. This means a flagger shall not be in a sitting position and no vehicles shall be parked near the flagging station.
- Control signaling devices (such as stop/slow paddles and flags) in order to provide clear and positive guidance to drivers approaching a temporary traffic control zone.
- Maintain situational awareness, protect the work crew and provide guidance and direction to the traveling public.

Foreman and flaggers:

- Review traffic control drawings together to ensure there is proper distance between the flaggers and the work area according to speed of traffic and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines.
- Plan work coverage to allow for break time.

Foreman and crew:

- Be on notice that the flagger is there to communicate with the motoring public and YOU.
- Follow directions to stop work, look up or clear the road when directed by the flagger.
- Do not solely rely on the flagger to warn you of oncoming traffic – maintain situational awareness and be alert to traffic.

Flagger:

- Inspect all equipment before use. Illumination devices must be functioning and at full power when in use and radio batteries must be charged.
- Ensure all flaggers are operating on the same radio channel and plan for an escape area.

All employees have “STOP WORK AUTHORITY” and the ability to stop when they have a reasonable safety concern. Foremen and supervisors should review the concern with the employee and make corrections.

