

Road Construction Work Zone Safety

Working on roads in the Pacific Northwest can be very hazardous. Weather conditions including rain, fog and poor visibility can all lead to serious injuries or fatalities. In fact, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics, (BLS) 2018 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), there were 136 construction worker deaths caused by roadway incidents involving motor vehicles. Here are some quick reminders to help you and your team stay safe on the roads.

Have A Plan

Every road construction project should have a traffic control plan. The plan should include ways to protect workers by safely conducting traffic around or through the work zone. You should also have a traffic control plan for inside the work zone that manages the flow of construction vehicles, and workers.

Properly Control Traffic

The work zone should consist of an advanced warning area with warning signs alerting motorists of upcoming changes in driving conditions, a transition area using traffic control devices for lane closures and traffic pattern shifts, a buffer area, the work area and a termination area to allow traffic to resume back to normal and a sign indicating that the work zone has ended. All traffic control devices whether it's cones, barrels, barriers or signs should comply with the Federal Highway Administration's [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices \(MUTCD\)](#) and state requirements.

Wear Proper Personal Protective Equipment

Proper safety equipment should be worn by all personnel inside the work zone. Personal protective equipment (PPE) including hard hats, steel-toed boots, highly visible clothing and, depending on the noise levels, hearing protection.

All PPE should meet or exceed the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) developed standards. All highly visible clothing whether it's a vest, jacket or shirt should be bright fluorescent orange or lime/yellow and have visible reflective material especially if working at night and should meet ANSI Class 2 or 3 standards.

Always be Aware of Your Surroundings

Regardless of what your job duties entail in the work zone, you should always be mindful of what's going on around you. Avoid walking behind any vehicles that may be backing up or into the swing radius of heavy equipment. Whenever possible, face traffic while inside the work zone or have a spotter available when your back is turned. Spotters should also be used to monitor the movement of vehicles and heavy equipment inside the work zone in addition to monitoring traffic to alert workers to any potential dangers.

Know Where Your Blind Spots Are

Vehicles and heavy equipment are constantly moving about inside the work zone including dump trucks, compactors, pavement planers, excavators, pavers, and rollers. If you are on foot and working near these machines while in operation remember that the driver has a limited line of sight. Always stay in visual contact with the driver. A good rule of thumb to follow is that if you can't see them then they probably don't see you.

Jobsite: _____ Date: _____

Employee Name (Please Print)	Employee Signature