

TOPIC: Safety for Road Construction Workers

ACKNOWLEDGE: Thank you for being here and participating in this safety talk. I know your time is valuable, so I will ensure every moment of this talk is worth your while (*make eye contact with the entire group*).

Training Tips:

Ask a lot of questions: While delivering your Safety Talk, ask questions that ‘hook the mind’ and engage your participants. The simple act of asking questions is a High Impact Training technique! We have provided common answers, focus on the ones that apply to your workplace/ .

Raise a hand when asking questions: Directed to your audience, you’ll often find that people are more willing to answer your questions and become active participants... try it out! Also, pause for a moment after asking a question; waiting for and encouraging responses from the group.

Provide an example of a personal experience: (*or a recent news event*) For instance: “A close friend of mine once _____”, or “Just last week _____”. This is a very effective method to help participants relate to your topic. It often helps them to realize: ‘*Yeah, this could affect me. I should listen to this.*’

What’s In It for Me? Today, I am here to deliver a brief safety talk on how you can stay safe while working on roadways. It’s that time of year when road construction is ramping up and we’ll be dealing with long work days in the heat, impatient drivers, and the general high risk of working in moving traffic. By encouraging each other to follow all safety protocols, you can keep yourself and others safe and ensure you return home at the end of each work day.

ASK: Who here has been working on a road at some point and nearly been hit by a passing vehicle? (*wait for/encourage responses*)

STATE: If your answer is yes, you’re not alone. Even with proper signage and indicators in place to warn pedestrian vehicles of road construction, distracted or impatient drivers create a high risk of an incident occurring.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH):

- Approximately 20,000 road construction workers are injured each year.
- Transportation incidents account for over 65% of road work fatalities.
- Approximately 100 road construction workers are killed every year.

ASK: Do any of these statistics surprise you? Did you expect them to be higher or lower? (*wait for/encourage responses*)

Not all incidents involving roadside workers are due to pedestrian vehicles. Operating powered mobile equipment, like rollers or excavators, poses a high risk of injury or incident due to blind spots. Operators need to ensure they are using a spotter when in motion, using their back up alarms and horns, and **applying the parking brake** when the machine is



not in use. If you are a worker on the ground, you can avoid blind spots easier by maintaining eye contact with the operator if you're within the vicinity.

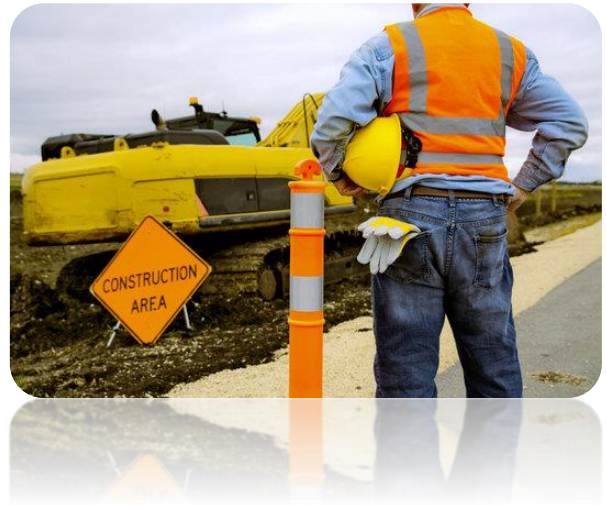


REMEMBER: NEVER assume equipment operators can see you, even in your high visibility clothing! Always signal or maintain eye contact with them before you move.

ASK: What are some ways you can stay safe in road work zones? (wait for/encourage responses)

Other Road Safety Tips!

- **Plan Ahead:** A road construction safety plan should be put in place to protect pedestrian vehicles and road workers by safely conducting traffic in work zones. A traffic control plan is needed inside the work zone to safely manage the flow of pedestrian vehicles, powered mobile equipment, and road workers.
- **Traffic Control:** Traffic control must put advanced warnings signs and indicators in place to alert the public of road construction and changes in traffic flow.
- **Remain Alert:** You should not be on a cellphone or any other device that could distract you from your surroundings. Be aware of moving traffic and always have an escape path planned.
- **Conduct Hazard Assessments:** Conduct, at minimum, daily hazard assessments to identify potential hazards and implement controls. You should also be doing a hazard assessment when the working conditions change, i.e., the weather, daily tasks, as this can present new hazards.
- **Implement Daily Safety Talks:** A safety talk prior to starting each day allows the road workers to be briefed on the day's scheduled activities and potential hazards.
- **Wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** All personnel must wear their PPE at ALL times while on the job. This includes hard hats, steel toe boots, hearing protection, and high visibility clothing.
- **Create Practical Work Zones:** Work zones can have various work activities taking place at the same time so use tape, cones, barriers, etc. to section the zones off for the safe movement of workers, storage, heavy machinery, and pedestrian vehicles.
- **Routine On-Site Safety Checks:** Always ensure you are performing regular safety checks of the site and inspecting safety equipment, first aid supplies, and emergency protocols.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Working long hours in the summer sun can take a toll on your health, and the temperature on asphalt can reach over 2°C higher than the surrounding temperatures. Ensure you are drinking lots of water and taking microbreaks in shady areas whenever possible to avoid dehydration and heat stroke.



STATE: If you have any questions regarding the topics discussed today, please let me know. If I don't have an answer for you now, I will direct your question to another individual, if you are comfortable with that. We want you to be safe and feel safe while at work!

Discuss your specific workplace, policies and procedures here.

Facilitator, remember to:

1. Ask for the commitment of your employees,
2. Answer all questions,
3. Thank them for their time and
4. Document that this safety talk occurred.

RECORD OF SAFETY TALK	
Company Name:	Work Location Dept.:
Talk Given by:	Date / Time:

Results of inspection, demonstration or other activity or suggestions during talk:

List of All Employees Who Attended the Safety Talk:	
Name (PRINT)	<i>Signature</i>
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Signed: _____ Position Held: _____