



Public Sector Safety Talks: APERMA

Flagger Safety

What are the hazards of flagging?

Environment: Like most construction sites, employees are subject to the weather. The summer months bring warm weather and the risks of heat stress. Winter rain and snow brings the risk of cold stress and hypothermia.

Traffic: Is the biggest hazard a flagger is exposed to. Inattentive motorists and drunk drivers pose risks to flaggers even if work areas are properly demarcated and barricaded.

Time of Day: Work procedures need to be adjusted when shifting from daytime to nighttime operations. Additional lighting and demarcation is needed to increase flagger visibility when working at night.

Heavy Equipment: Outdoor construction sites and highway projects usually have heavy equipment operating in close proximity to pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Adequate communication is needed between flaggers and crew members to assure safe distance is maintained between equipment, traffic and people.



What are the worksite conditions that flaggers need to be trained on?

Flaggers need to be training by a competent individual who can effectively teach the fundamental principles of flagging traffic. Training, instruction, and signaling directions used by flaggers should conform to the applicable Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Training must also take into account the particular worksite conditions and include the following:

- flagger equipment which must be used through the work zone
- the layout of the work zone and flagging station
- methods to signal traffic to stop, proceed or slow down
- methods of one-way control
- trainee demonstration of proper flagging methods
- how to respond to emergency vehicles traveling
- how to handle emergency situations
- methods of dealing with hostile drivers
- Single and multiple flagger situations
- personal protective equipment
- Work zone and flagging area set up
- Traffic Control Plans

Please feel free to contact Jim Bergemann or Kathi Williams at 800-274-2788 with any questions regarding the above material.

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