

Georgia Struck-By Alliance's 22nd Annual National Work Zone Awareness Week April 26-30, 2021



Work Zone Safety Tips

How Workers Can Protect Themselves from Injury

The following are some of the best safety tips that a worker can adopt to protect themselves from a highway work zone injury or fatality:

- Stay alert.
- Do not turn your back on traffic.
- Wear high visibility garments, such as fluorescent or reflective clothing, arm bands, hats or vests.
- Be aware of all potential hazards, especially blind spots relative to moving construction equipment.
- Always look before you move from your position.
- Fully understand the channel lanes where walking is prohibited or is proscribed, where vehicles and equipment enter or exit, and the direction of all traffic in and out the work zone.
- Use spotters while loading and unloading equipment.
- If acting as a spotter, know where you are expected to stand and confirm what hand signals are to be relayed to the driver.
- Before each work shift begins, familiarize yourself with the communication signals to be used between equipment operators and workers on foot.
- Be aware of the swing area for equipment that uses buckets.
- Never stand under any suspended equipment like buckets, booms, or arms.
- Ensure that all parking brakes are applied to any equipment, especially if you have to temporarily exit the vehicle. Additionally, all vehicles parked on inclines should have adequately-sized chocks placed under their tires.
- Do not operate any vehicle, especially rollers, on an incline without wearing a seat belt.
- Never approach any machinery without signaling the operator to shut down the equipment and receiving an acknowledgement in return.
- Avoid riding on any moving equipment like rollers or similar equipment.
- Equipment operators should never move equipment without making positive visual eye contact with all workers on foot in their vicinity.
- Flaggers should understand the traffic flow, work zone set up and the proper placement of traffic channeling devices.
- Flaggers should maintain ample distance from other highway workers so their role can be distinguished by passing motorists.

- Flaggers should ensure they have good sight communication or two-way radios to communicate with their counterpart at the other end the vehicular stream.
- Have a bail-out plan in case of an errant vehicle. Get out of the way of errant vehicles and warn other workers of errant vehicles.
- Use truck mounted attenuators (TMA) during installation and removal.
- Install as many of the traffic control devices as possible from the shoulder.
- Ensure that proper lighting is available for nighttime installation and removal of temporary traffic control devices.
- Law enforcement personnel may be used during installation and removal activities to help deter speeding and provide enhanced visibility for the operation. Enforcement personnel should be in safe locations on the shoulder or off the roadway.
- Always think safety and be aware of your surroundings. Above all else never assume that equipment operators or motorists outside the work zone have spotted you and will slow down or stop.

Resources:

- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Workzonesafety.org