

Georgia Struck-By Alliance

19th Annual National Work Zone Awareness Week

April 9-13, 2018

Flagging Safety Tips

Flaggers should be able to satisfactorily demonstrate the following abilities:

- Ability to receive and communicate specific instructions clearly, firmly, and courteously.
- Ability to move and maneuver quickly in order to avoid danger from errant vehicles.
- Ability to control signaling devices (such as paddles and flags) in order to provide clear and positive guidance to drivers approaching a temporary traffic control (TTC) zone in frequently changing situations.
- Ability to understand and apply safe traffic control practices, sometimes in stressful or emergency situations.
- Ability to recognize dangerous traffic situations and warn workers in sufficient time to avoid injury.

Flagger Stations:

- The flagger should stand either on the shoulder adjacent to the road being controlled or in the closed lane prior to stopping road users.
- A flagger should only stand in the lane being used by moving road users after road users have stopped.
- The flagger should be clearly visible to the first approaching road user at all times. The flagger also should be visible to other road users.
- The flagger should be stationed sufficiently in advance of the workers to warn them of approaching danger by out-of-control vehicles.
- The flagger should stand alone, away from other workers, work vehicles, or equipment.
- Flagger stations should be located such that an errant vehicle has additional space to stop without entering the work space. The flagger should identify an escape route that can be used to avoid being struck by an errant vehicle.

- Flagger stations shall be preceded by an advance warning sign or signs.
- Flagger stations shall be illuminated at night.

Do's and Don'ts of Flagging:

DO: Be alert at all times. An alert flagger will more likely command the respect of motorists and will be more able to respond to emergency situations.

DO: Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) while on duty.

DO: Stand alone where you can be identified by the motorists.

DO: Have knowledge of the project's traffic plans.

DO: Plan and prepare an escape route.

DO: Treat each driver with courtesy.

DO: Remove, fold over, or turn away the flagger sign and other inappropriate signs, when flagging is no longer being performed or during breaks of extended periods (i.e. lunch).

DO: Illuminate your flagger station during dusk or night time operations.

DO: When in doubt, stop traffic to maintain control.

DO: Always carry your flagging card while on flagging duty.

DON'T: Stand in an open traffic lane or with your back to traffic.

DON'T: Stand with a group of people or near equipment or vehicles.

DON'T: Place the staff inside a cone. The staff should always be held by the flagger.

DON'T: Take part in unnecessary conversation with workers, pedestrians, or motorists.

DON'T: Use vehicle radios for communication between flaggers.

DON'T: Give flagging instructions contrary to traffic control devices.

DON'T: Read, use cell phone, or listen to music while on duty.

DON'T: Leave your station until properly replaced except to avoid imminent danger.

DON'T: Sit while performing your duty.

DON'T: Lean on vehicles or argue with motorists.

Resources:

- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Kansas Department of Transportation Flagger Handbook