



ROADSIDE SAFETY

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than half of roadway work zone fatalities are attributable to a worker being struck by a vehicle or mobile equipment. Workers should be trained on how to work next to motor vehicle traffic during landscaping projects.

Worker Safety Planning

- Designate a competent person to conduct a basic hazard assessment of the work site and job classifications required in the activity area. A competent person is one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surrounds or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measure to eliminate them. You should always scout the job site before beginning work on any job, but it's particularly important when working near roadways since flying debris could strike vehicles and cause injuries, property damage, and possibly a lawsuit.
- At every job site near a roadway, require a crew leader to conduct a 5- to 10-minute safety session before work begins. Do this every day as hazards often change. On subsequent days, the crew leader could point out safety mistakes and successes from the previous day.
- Teach workers how to protect themselves in work zones, including how to deal with hostile drivers.

For further guidance, see the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse (workzonesafety.org), OSHA's safety standards for signs, signals, and barricades (osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=17390), and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

Worker Safety Apparel

All workers exposed to the risks of moving roadway traffic or construction equipment should do the following:

- Wear high-visibility safety apparel to provide for greater visibility and protective headgear, if necessary, especially during inclement weather.
- Wear hardhats depending on type of work being done.
- Wear ear and eye protection depending on type of work being done.
- Wear hand, arm, and foot protection depending on type of work being done.

External Traffic

- Make every effort to have workers face oncoming traffic. The equipment noise and the hearing-protection device a worker might be wearing could prevent him/her from hearing approaching vehicles.
- Post warning signs to alert motorists to your presence. Orange cones alone are not enough.
- Evaluate each job site from a driver's perspective, noting visibility limitations and blind spots. If you must stand in the road (to clear leaves, debris, etc.) and vehicles are approaching around a curve or motorists' visibility is otherwise compromised, have a co-worker stand where he/she can see oncoming traffic and alert you to move.

Speed Reduction

- Consider using the following methods to reduce the speed of vehicular traffic: regulatory speed zoning, funneling, lane reduction, or the use of uniformed law enforcement officers or flaggers.
- Many states require traffic flaggers to be certified and/or trained. See workzonesafety.org/training/flagger_training for your state's requirements and available resources.

Temporary Traffic Barriers

- Temporary traffic barriers should be placed along the workspace depending on factors such as lateral clearance of workers from adjacent traffic, speed of traffic, duration and type of operations, time of day, and volume of traffic.
- Use tapers (traffic cones) in the transition area to move traffic in or out of a normal path
- Barricades may be used as well.
- Traffic control devices should be located far enough in advance of the work area to allow vehicles to move smoothly and efficiently around work areas.
- Post signs to clearly inform motorists of approaching activity and to guide drivers.
- All signs used at night must be retro-reflective.
- Make sure all traffic control devices are not damaged or have not lost a significant amount of retro-reflectivity and their effectiveness. If they have, replace them.

Precautions within Activity Area

Internal Traffic Control

The purpose of an internal traffic control plan is to develop strategies to control the flow of construction workers, vehicles, and equipment inside the work zone.

- Planning the internal work activity area to minimize the need for backing-up maneuvers of construction vehicles should be considered to reduce the exposure to risk.
- Be particularly careful when operating or working near construction equipment/vehicles. Being struck or pinned by equipment is a common type of roadway work zone accident. Always make eye contact with equipment operators before you cross in front or behind them. If you are operating equipment, pay close attention to your surroundings. See [osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/struckby/vehicles.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/construction/struckby/vehicles.html) for additional precautions.

Tools and Equipment

- Keep all tools and equipment away from roadside to alleviate potential vehicle hitting equipment or tools.
- Keep all tools and equipment in designated area away from construction vehicles. Keep employees safely away from roadside when going to get tools.

Have an emergency action plan!

- Know your hazards.
- Know exactly who is on the job site.
- Provide medical response to minor injuries.
- Know how to describe the location of the work site to emergency dispatchers.
- Know names and telephone numbers of company personnel who are to be notified in case of emergency and have this information available on the job site.

Through the OSHA and Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Alliance, PLANET developed this Card for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.