

FACTS AT A GLANCE

- The safety of ALL road users should be job #1 and the highest priority of every member in the work zone. Be vigilant.
- Practice situational awareness and remain alert at all times.
- Ensure that traffic controls are clear, easy to understand and visible to all drivers.
- Ensure that you are visible to all traffic. Wear ANSI /ISEA compliant high visibility garments in the work zone.
- Flaggers should be easily seen and should be properly trained for the job.
- Extra care should be taken when working at night to ensure worker and driver safety. The work zone should be well lit.
- Comply with Manual on Uniformed Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requirements.

DC 37 SAFETY AND HEALTH FACTSHEET

WORK ZONE TRAFFIC SAFETY

Transportation incidents and workers struck by vehicles or mobile equipment account for the highest number of fatal work injuries according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Many DC 37 members are exposed to being struck-by moving vehicles at work.

- The purpose of work zone traffic control is to provide a safe area for workers within the roadway while facilitating the safe and orderly flow of all road users through the work zone including motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and persons with disabilities.
- Make traffic safety and traffic control an integral and high-priority element of every project from planning through design, construction, and maintenance.
- Use traffic control devices, signals, signs, cones and barrels which instruct drivers to follow paths away from where work is being done.
- Flaggers with Stop/Slow paddles may also be utilized. Flaggers should wear approved retroreflective clothing allowing visibility to drivers up to 1000 feet away. The flagger's only job is work zone protection and traffic control; they should not engage in any other activities.
- When a higher level of driver caution is required work zone advance-warning signage should be used. Warning signs must be located to provide adequate visibility and distance to drivers; should not be blocked by foliage, roadway features, or other signs or traffic control devices; and should not be located where glare may reduce visibility.
- Extra care should be taken when scheduling work at night. Lighting of the work area and/or flagging stations is required.
- All workers in the work zone should wear ANSI/ISEA high visibility garments designated as class 1, 2 or 3.

This factsheet contains only basic safety information. Please visit the following website for more comprehensive details on work zone safety:

https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/fy08_sh-17795-08_workzone_hazards_awareness_english.pdf

Sources: OSHA; NYS DOT