



Why is Work Zone Safety Important?

Every year, over 770 people lose their lives in work zone-related incidents. Many of these deaths involve construction workers, especially those working on highways, roads, and bridges. The biggest risk? Being struck by moving vehicles and equipment, both from the public and within the jobsite.

Real-Life Risk

Did you know?

- Dump trucks are involved in 41% of work zone deaths.
- Over half of these happen while dump trucks are backing up.

This means we all need to be aware, not just operators, but everyone on foot or working near equipment.

What Are the Hazards in Work Zones?

- Moving construction vehicles and equipment
- Public traffic (cars, trucks, motorcycles)
- Limited visibility from machinery or dust
- Night work and low lighting
- Inclement weather
- Noise from equipment
- Slips, trips, and falls

- Natural hazards (trees, vegetation)
- Entering/exiting the work zone

Flaggers and High-Visibility

- Flaggers are at especially high risk. If you can't be seen, you could be struck.
- Always wear high-visibility clothing (ANSI class 2 or 3)
- Make sure your vest or clothing is clean and reflective
- Flagger stations must be lit up at night or in low light
- Use STOP/SLOW paddles and follow correct hand signals
- Communicate clearly—eye contact with equipment operators is key

General Safety Precautions

- Follow MUTCD standards for all traffic signs and markings
- Wear reflective, high-visibility clothing on every shift, every job
- Know where and how to safely enter or exit the work zone
- Limit who's in the area
- Set up "no backing" and "pedestrian-free" zones
- Use backup alarms and make sure they work
- Remove hazards like construction debris
- Non-essential equipment or items? Keep them out!
- Make sure traffic control devices are clean, reflective, and up to date
- Always know the emergency escape route

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Communication Saves Lives

- Make eye contact with equipment operators before entering their area
- Never assume they see you!
- Use spotters and hand signals when needed
- Speak up if you see something unsafe

Final Reminders

- Stay alert at all times
- Take extra care in low light, bad weather, or congested areas
- Keep your PPE on and visible
- If you're unsure, ask before moving into any danger zone