

Georgia Struck-By Alliance National Work Zone Awareness



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

Resources

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