



WORKZONE SAFETY

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – WORKPLACE HAZARDS

April 2024

For Public Works employees, many tasks involve working alongside roads, highways, and other areas where traffic is present. It's crucial to prioritize safety to ensure that everyone goes home safe at the end of the day.

Why Work Zone Safety Matters: Work zones can be dangerous environments due to the combination of heavy machinery, moving vehicles, and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, thousands of accidents occur in work zones each year, many of which result in injuries or fatalities. By following proper safety protocols, we can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries.

Key Safety Guidelines:

1. **Wear High-Visibility Clothing:** Make sure you're wearing high-visibility vests or clothing whenever you're working in or near a work zone. This makes you more visible to motorists, reducing the risk of collisions.
2. **Follow Traffic Control Measures:** Always obey the traffic control measures in place, whether it's traffic cones, barricades, or flaggers. These measures are there to protect both workers and motorists, so it's essential to respect them.
3. **Stay Alert and Focused:** Keep your attention on the task at hand and be aware of your surroundings. Avoid distractions like using your phone or engaging in conversations that take your focus away from the work zone.
4. **Use Proper Signage:** Ensure that appropriate signage is set up to warn motorists of the work zone ahead. Signs should be clear, visible, and placed at a sufficient distance from the work area to give drivers time to react.





5. **Communicate Effectively:**

Maintain clear communication with your coworkers, especially when operating heavy machinery or working in close proximity to each other. Use hand signals or radios to coordinate movements and avoid accidents.



6. **Protective Equipment:**

Always wear the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), including hard hats, safety glasses, gloves, and hearing protection. PPE can help minimize the risk of injury in the event of an accident.

Conclusion: In conclusion, work zone safety is a shared responsibility that requires vigilance, communication, and adherence to established protocols. By following these guidelines and looking out for each other, we can create a safer work environment for everyone involved. Let's keep these safety practices in mind as we carry out our duties, ensuring that we all return home safely at the end of the day. Thank you for your attention, and stay safe out there.