



Safety Brief - 2018-3

Safety Brief Series

Work Zone Safety: Barricades & Warning Devices

Road and highway work usually require a great deal of traffic control. Both require modifying the existing traffic patterns and, more importantly, the driving habits of the public. Today we will discuss the use of barricades and signs.

Guide for Discussion

There are numerous specific rules for signs, barricades and warning device usage. It is important we properly use all the types of warning devices we have to protect us, the public and our work zones. These rules and specifications are contained in the FHWA's **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices** (MUTCD). Chapter 6 of the MUTCD outlines standards for all devices used in Temporary Traffic Control including, size, color and placement.

Types of Accidents That Can Occur Without Proper Barricades & Warning Devices:

- Collision with construction equipment such as forklifts and trucks
- Collision with other vehicles
- Pedestrians (both workers and visitors) falling into excavations
- Driving into excavations
- Driving into work areas
- Loss of control of vehicle due to changes in road conditions

Types of Warning Devices:

- Signs
- Cones
- Drums
- Barricades
- Channeling devices such as barrier walls
- Flashing lights



General Rules:

- Give the public plenty of warning by using signs.
- Make sure warning devices can be seen and are effective.
- Use flaggers on narrow passages, one way passages, or when construction vehicles will be interacting with the public traffic flow.
- Maintain all barricades and signs.
- Give the work zone area a buffer area.
- Be sure to clearly mark the beginning and end of the work zone area.

Nighttime Operations

All traffic control devices shall be retroreflectorized when used at night. Workers must wear retroreflectorized vests. Cones must be equipped with a reflective collar when used at night. When barricades are used, it is desirable to add flashing lights when the barricades are used singly and steady burn lights when they are used in a series for channelization. If a flagger is used, the flagger stations should be adequately illuminated.

Remember

When consulting rules, please visit the FHWA's **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)** at <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/> and/or the **Guidelines for Temporary Traffic Control in Work Zones** at https://www.t2center.uconn.edu/pdfs/Work%20Zone%20Safety%20Guidebook_Final.pdf

For tips regarding moving pedestrians safely through work zones, please read the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA)'s **Pedestrians Checklist and Considerations for Temporary Traffic Control Zones** at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/indiv/docs/atssa_pedestrian_checklist.pdf.



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