

Traffic Control Use of Flagpersons

On many construction job sites, the use of flagpersons to control traffic is highly desirable. Fixed warning signs, barricades, traffic cones, temporary traffic signals, and other mandated traffic control devices will help make the construction site safer. However, there is no safe substitute for flagpersons when traffic passing through the site may be required to stop due to conflicts with construction equipment, when blasting activity is undertaken, when the travel path cannot accommodate two-way traffic, or in similar situations.

When a decision to use flagpersons has been made, the following points should be considered:

- Personnel selected to perform flagperson duties should be responsible individuals, be in good physical condition (including vision and hearing), and have a courteous but firm manner.
- Flagpersons should be properly dressed. Use of fluorescent orange or yellow colored hat and vest, shirt, or jacket is suggested. Clothing should have reflectorized material if worn at dusk/night.
- Proper equipment should be provided. A two-sided sign paddle is generally suggested. In some situations, red flags or lights with red colored lenses may be substituted depending on local/state law. If the flagpersons will not be able to see the entire area controlled, two-way radios should be provided.
- Personnel should be properly trained. See instructions on the reverse side that may be tailored to your specific needs.
- Flagpersons should be positioned no closer than 100 feet from the work area being protected. They must be located in such a manner that approaching drivers can see them from at least 500 feet.
- Signalling directions by flagpersons shall conform to American National Standards Institute D6.1-1971 "Manual or Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways".

Instructions to Flagpersons

You have been chosen to perform a very important duty. As flagperson in the area to which you have been assigned, you are charged with the responsibility of protecting the lives of fellow employees working on the highway and also the safe guidance of traffic through the work area. They depend on you!

It is of extreme importance that you give your undivided attention to your duties as flagperson. The following instructions have been prepared to assist you in fully understanding these duties. You should thoroughly familiarize yourself with the provisions and to perform the flagging operations as outlined.

On many construction job sites, the use of flagpersons to control traffic is highly desirable.