
WORK ZONE SAFETY

A. Introduction

City employees working on roads and highways work in a unique environment. This environment can consist of hazards related to their specific duties complicated by the movement of a variety of vehicle traffic. Some examples of these operations are: traffic control, forestry activities, solid waste trucks, construction equipment, public works vehicles, fleet maintenance repair vehicles, police, fire and emergency medical services.

B. General Information

Many city employees work in proximity to a variety of work related vehicles and public motor vehicle traffic. Employees working on foot are exposed to the risk of being struck by passing traffic or work equipment if they do not use safe work practices and are not visible to motorists or equipment. Employees may work in conditions of low lighting, low visibility, inclement weather and may have duties in congested areas related to high traffic volume and speeds.

The City of Pittsburgh, with the assistance of all affected employees, will incorporate, to the best of its ability, the following items that NIOSH has identified as measures dealing with work zone injury prevention:

- Work zone layout.
- Use of temporary traffic control devices.
- Motorist education and speed enforcement.
- Flagger duties.
- High-visibility apparel.
- Illumination of the work zone.
- Developing and implementing internal traffic control plans.
- Accountability and coordination at the work site.
- Equipment operation and maintenance.
- Safe equipment operation around workers on foot.
- Worker training.
- Data and recordkeeping.

Many of these issues are just beginning to surface and be identified by governmental groups. The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) has developed a Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which focuses on the interaction between the road user and the work zone. Other involved governmental agencies include the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

It is imperative that all employees utilize safe work practices and follow all department policies related to work zone safety.

