

TOOLBOX TALK #27

WORKING WITH TRAFFIC

In 2020, 117 workers died in work zones, according to a National Work Zone Awareness Group.

“Work zones need traffic controls identified by signs, cones, barrels and barriers,” OSHA says. “Drivers, workers on foot, and pedestrians must be able to see and understand the proper routes. Construction project managers determine traffic control plans within construction/demolition worksites.”

Keep your work zones safe by following these tips from OSHA:

- Use traffic control devices, signals, and message boards to instruct drivers to follow established paths away from where work is being performed.
- Deter unauthorized entry into work zones by using concrete, water, sand, collapsible barriers, and other impact-absorbing materials.
- Make sure flaggers are wearing high-visibility clothing with a fluorescent background and made of retroreflective material. This makes them visible for at least 1000 feet. They also should be using “SLOW/STOP” paddles or paddles with lights and be trained on authorized signaling methods.
- Ensure work zones are well lit. “Lighting for workers on foot and for equipment operators should be at least 5 foot-candles or greater. Where available lighting is not sufficient, flares or chemical lighting should be used. Glare should be controlled or eliminated.”
- Buckle up. “Seatbelts and rollover protection should be used on equipment and vehicles as the manufacturer recommends.”

