

Flagging Safely

Each year, many workers are injured or killed in the highway and street construction industry.

• Highway work zones are divided into five separate areas: The advanced warning area, the transition area, the buffer zone, the work area, and the termination area.

Sometimes traffic can be controlled by signs and barricades, but flaggers are often needed in addition.

- Flaggers must wear safety apparel with the background (outer) material of either fluorescent orange-red or fluorescent yellow-green.
- In addition, they should wear hard hats and work boots.
- Most flaggers use radio communication devices but also have devices like a horn or loud whistle to warn workers in the area.

The STOP/SLOW paddle should be the primary and preferred handsignaling device—use of flags should be limited to emergency situations.

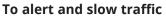






To stop road users

To let traffic proceed



Other safety practices are as follows:

- The flagger should stand *facing* traffic either on the shoulder adjacent to the road being controlled or in the closed lane prior to stopping road users.
- A flagger should *only* stand in the lane being used by moving road users *after* road users have stopped.
- The flagger should be *clearly visible* to the first approaching road user at all times and also be visible to other road users.
- The flagger should be stationed sufficiently in advance of the workers to warn them (for example, with audible warning devices such as horns or whistles) of approaching danger by out-of-control vehicles.
- The flagger should stand *alone,* never permitting a group of workers to congregate around the flagging station.

The construction crew needs to take precautions as well. They should:

- Know the layout of the work zone, including the buffer zone.
- Know the sound of the flagger's signal warning them of danger.
- Keep a watchful eye on the heavy construction equipment moving in the work area.