

### Making Safer Work Zones

To ensure the safety of both workers and drivers in work zones, temporary accommodations should be well-planned in order to clearly guide road users that are approaching, and traveling through, work zones. Creating recognizable work zone boundaries, effectively communicating with coworkers, proper PPE use, and a traffic control plan, are just a few actions that can be taken to make work zones safer.

### Recognizable Boundaries

Helping workers recognize patterns in the operation of heavy equipment is one way to create recognizable boundaries. Another way is to clearly define boundaries of all work zones, giving special attention to areas where work zones intersect and overlap.

### Effective Communication

Here are some things to consider when communicating with coworkers in a work zone:

- Be aware and track one another's location on site at all times
- Maintain eye contact with coworkers before entering their work zone and ensure the entry is acknowledged by the active worker(s) in that zone
- Utilize two-way communication whenever necessary to enter a work zone.
- Always inform workers before leaving the area

### Personal Protective Equipment

Under section 133(1) of the Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996, workers at risk from vehicular traffic, whether on a public highway or other worksite, must be provided with, and required to use, a high visibility vest, armlets, or other high visibility clothing.

### SCSA Guide to OHS Legislation App



### Traffic Control Plan

Temporary accommodations should be well-planned in order to clearly guide road users that are approaching, and traveling through, work zones. A traffic control plan is required to outline traffic hazards and the measures needed for traffic control. Sections 9-21 and 9-22 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020 outline the legal obligations of employers or contractors to ensure the safety of workers from traffic. Under both subsections described below, these plans must be in writing, readily available for reference by workers, and workers must also be trained with respect to the traffic control plan.

**9-22(2)** If there is a danger to a worker from vehicular traffic on a public highway, an employer or contractor shall

. . . protect the worker from traffic hazards by the use of one or more of the following: warning signs; barriers; lane control devices; flashing lights; flares; conspicuously identified pilot vehicles; automatic or remote-controlled traffic control systems; and designated signallers directing traffic.

**9-22 (7)** . . . a traffic control plan must:

(c) set out, if appropriate:

(i) the maximum allowable speed of any vehicle or class of vehicles, including powered mobile equipment, in use at the place of employment;

(ii) the maximum operating grades;

(iii) the location and type of control signs;

(iv) the route to be taken by vehicles or powered mobile equipment;

(v) the priority to be established for classes of vehicle;

(vi) the location and type of barriers or restricted areas; and

(vii) the duties of workers and the employer or

contractor.

# Tool Box Talk

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When accidents and incidents happen on the jobsite, we are always quick to point the finger at lack of training, not following practices or procedures, or even improper supervision. The idea that the hazards and dangers associated with the job were not properly communicated to all of the workers is often missed.

Tool Box Talks can go by many names, and although formats may vary, these meetings all serve one purpose: to inform employees and contract workers. Tool Box Talks are short, informal, meetings between management and the workers on a jobsite. The goal of these meetings is to reinforce current safe job procedures, inform workers of new and/or relevant procedures, review recent safety violations/incidents, and ensure workers are up-to-date on the information required to complete their work safely.

Always use a Tool Box Talk form to record the meeting topic, date, who was in attendance, and any follow-up actions to be taken. Not only do these forms help with consistency of record keeping, but they also ensure that nothing is missed. At the end of the meeting have management sign off on the form.

One of the most important aspects of a Tool Box Talk is giving workers an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions. All employees have a right to participate in health and safety as it relates to their work and it is the supervisor or manager's responsibility to create an environment for them to do so. Once the meeting is over, and the form is filled out, it should be filed with other documented Tool Box Talks.

Remember that Tool Box Talks are short and informal, they are not meant to be intimidating. Use the opportunity to have fun and stay on top of what is necessary to keep safety culture a strong part of the business.

For a full listing of Tool Box Talk topics, visit: [www.scsaonline.ca/resources/tool-box-talks](http://www.scsaonline.ca/resources/tool-box-talks)

For a copy of the Tool Box Talk form, visit: [www.scsaonline.ca/pdf/Tool\\_Box\\_Meeting.pdf](http://www.scsaonline.ca/pdf/Tool_Box_Meeting.pdf)

## About the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association

The Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA) is an industry-funded, membership-based, nonprofit organization that provides cost-effective, accessible safety training and advice to employers and employees in the construction industry throughout the province to reduce the human and financial losses associated with injuries. Registered March 20, 1995, the SCSA is, and has been since inception, committed to injury prevention. Serving almost 10,000 member companies with business offices in both Regina and Saskatoon, the major business units of the association are Advisory Services, Business Development, Corporate Services, Program Services and Training. The mission of the SCSA is constructing safety leadership in Saskatchewan and the vision is to create the safest construction environment in Canada.