

Tool Box Talk

Work Zone Traffic Safety

Making Safer Work Zones

To ensure the safety of both workers and drivers in work zones, temporary accommodations should be well-planned to clearly guide road users who are approaching and travelling 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 9-22(1) of the *Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020*, 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.

Traffic Control Plan

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 and readily available for reference by workers. Workers must also be trained with respect to the traffic control plan.

Legislation

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 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.