

The Driving Factor



Driving on roadways can be tedious, especially when we are slowed down by road construction. But we can't have roadways to drive on without road construction. As people who work in road construction, we have a lot to watch out for: heavy equipment, job quality, and the traffic around us. But sometimes when we're on the other side as drivers, we forget to teach our families and friends the patience we expect of others. Friends and family members may be working on the construction site.

By being careful and going slowly around road construction, you can prevent possible incidents. Read and obey road construction signs. They are in place for a reason.

Remember that what you do sets the example for your family members. If you ignore what is going on around you, they will too. If we set a good example for family, friends, and fellow motorists, maybe we can start a trend.



Make a Difference

Incidents in road construction can be prevented with proper planning, good communication, and awareness of the activities going on in the work area. Make sure you protect yourself and the rest of the crew. You can make a difference.

For more information, refer to current applicable Occupational Health and Safety Legislation.

The Alberta Construction Safety Association's mission is to provide quality advice and education for the construction industry that will reduce human suffering and financial costs associated with workplace incidents. This brochure is part of a series, **The Toolbox Brochures**, which are available on a variety of safety topics. If you have any questions or comments please contact:



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Ground Workers



Making Safety A Way Of Life



The Alberta Construction Safety Association

Keep an Eye on Safety

A lot goes on in road construction: not only do workers have to perform their jobs safely and work together as a team, but they also have to do so around moving traffic and heavy equipment. As a road construction ground worker, you have to do your job, and you have to watch out for everyone else at the same time.

That's why it's so important to keep a constant eye on safety—on how you work and on how others around you work. If you don't, it could mean your life or the life of your co-worker.

Hazards

You need to watch out for a number of hazards. Some of the major hazards are:

- Moving traffic
- Moving equipment
- Equipment backing up
- Flying material or spillage off loads from passing traffic
- Mechanical failure
- High noise levels
- Changing environmental conditions: processes, procedures, equipment movement

What You Wear May Save Your Life

You need to ensure drivers and heavy equipment operators see you. Always wear a highly visible vest. (Reflective is the best kind.)

Make sure your clothes allow you to move freely in case you have to take evasive action—but not too loose, for you could get caught up in something.

Signs and Barricades

Another important step in protecting yourself is to make sure all signage and barricades are properly placed in the work area (see the Toolbox Brochure on *Signs and Barricades*).

Signaling

Do you know who the designated signaler is? Do you know what signals are being used? Is everyone aware of these signals? These are some basic questions you should ask yourself before starting the job. These signals may be the only thing between your life and some very large equipment.

Dumping

If you are directing truck dumping, stay to the rear. Make sure you maintain eye contact with the operator. Stay off to the side during backing and dumping operations to avoid flying rocks or a raised box that may overturn.



Outside the Zone

If you are a load checker, a centre line raker, or on a string or survey crew who must work outside the control zone, use extra caution, and do not work with your back to oncoming traffic. Use the buddy system with a co-worker to watch your back.

Awareness From the Ground Up

There are a lot of questions to ask yourself before starting work:

- Where are the limits of the traffic control zone? Are you going to be able to work within that zone at all times?
- Which direction/path is the equipment going to take?
- Do you always have eye contact with the operator?
- Can you always stay on the upside of equipment?
- Do you know where all the overhead power lines and underground utilities are located?
- Do you have an escape route?
- Is there a warning device (e.g., airhorn) to warn you and other workers of immediate danger?



Be on the Look Out

Be particularly careful to watch out for:

- Slip, trip, and fall hazards
- Pinch points
- Material falling off loads or being thrown from tires
- Everything and everyone around you

