

## How to Prepare

Traffic control people need to make sure they are prepared by reviewing their training workbook. They must also be well rested and ready to work. They will benefit from drinking plenty of fluids and making sure they have food with them to maintain their energy levels throughout the day.

## Driving Through Work Areas

We can all help reduce the chance of having unplanned incidents in the work zone. Pay attention to the signs. Obey all signs and signals. Reduce speed. Do not assume that there is no need to slow down. Sometimes the reason for a traffic control site is not immediately apparent. Nearly one third of all work-related deaths are related to traffic.

Please do not become one of these unfortunate statistics.



### PREFERRED METHOD



To Stop Traffic

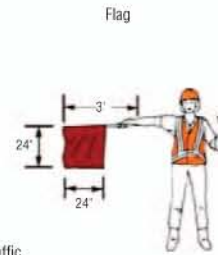


Traffic Proceed



To Alert and Slow Traffic

### EMERGENCY USE ONLY



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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# Traffic Control Persons



## Making Safety A Way Of Life



## The Alberta Construction Safety Association



## Responsibilities for Safety

Working as a traffic control person (TCP) is one of the most important positions on the jobsite.

### They carry the responsibility:

- For directing traffic to protect the safety of the work crew.
- To direct the actions of motoring and pedestrian traffic for their safety and the safety of the work crew.
- Of looking after their own safety so that they can effectively look after their duties to protect the safety of the work crew and the public.

## Hazards of the Job

Traffic control people have the right to know what the hazards of the job are. Before starting the job, a hazard assessment should be done. Things to look for would include but not be limited to:

- Traffic volumes
- Speed limits
- Sight distances
- Work processes
- The presence of pedestrian traffic
- The tools and equipment including the signs
- Communications
- Proximity to other workers (working alone)
- Road surface
- Environmental conditions
- Proximity of heavy equipment
- Noise
- Training competencies for traffic control persons

The position of traffic control person can be hazardous. To reduce the hazards, the traffic control person must be in good physical shape with good vision and hearing. They need to be alert and aware of everything that is going on around them.

## The Traffic Control Person and Public Relations

Everyday on the work site, the traffic control person is the person most visible to the public. It is critical that a positive image be projected. The TCP must be neat and clean and attired professionally. The equipment and tools they use should be clean and in good repair to give a good visual image of professionalism.

The TCP must take charge and, as much as possible, avoid delaying traffic unnecessarily. Avoid long conversations. Treat the public with respect. Maintain professionalism.

## The Traffic Controller's Equipment

In compliance with Legislation, the owner/client will dictate the type of safety apparel that the TCP must wear. The following is a list of equipment to be utilized by traffic control people:

- A fluorescent red/orange hardhat
- Appropriate protective foot wear
- A safety vest with reflective stripes both front and back
- A 45-cm stop/slow paddle which should be equipped with a 1.6 m pole
- Two flag person signs (Additional signage may be required depending on the circumstances.)



- Clearly distinguishable clothing (e.g., coveralls or uniform in lime green, or other bright colours)
- A log book and pen
- Flashlight with a semi-transparent or fluorescent orange wand
- Air horn or other warning device
- Personal protective supplies such as insect repellent, sun screen
- Communication devices
- Rain gear

## Safe Work Practices

- Pre-plan all traffic control sites
- Plan an escape route
- Stand alone
- Never leave the station unattended
- Never wave the paddle
- Keep signs clean and in good condition
- Remove or cover signs when not in use
- Never stand or walk in the path of moving vehicles
- No personal radios or other distractions at traffic control sites
- Know what is happening
- Check to make sure your signs are in place
- Use eye contact to get driver's attention
- Stay alert

Once the site is established, make sure that it is operating well. Hard braking, complaints about visibility from the public, and lack of response to the controls all mean that we should reassess the site to determine what improvements are required.

