

# MOCGA Toolbox Talk

## Safe Roadside Work Zones



**Introduction:** Utility workers, excavators and locators work along busy streets, roads and highways every day. Whenever work requires that we park trucks or position equipment along the shoulder, safe traffic control measures must be used. Motorists must be given advanced warning and clearly marked routes. Construction and utility crews must be mindful of the intoxicated or distracted drivers too. Review these safety tips with your crews.

## SAFETY TIPS

### WHO NEEDS WORK ZONE SAFETY?

- Water and wastewater districts
- Telephone and communications workers
- Linemen and electric crews
- Bore crews
- Paving crews
- Utility locators
- Surveyors
- Fire / rescue / EMS / law enforcement

### BEWARE THE FOLLOWING MOTORIST HAZARDS:

- Intoxication or drugged driving
- Speeds too fast for condition
- Distracted by cell phones or texting
- Poor visibility
- Poor motorist vehicle condition
- Motorist is blinded by flood lighting or amber warning lights.

### KNOW OSHA's "FOCUS FOUR"

#### CONSTRUCTION JOBSITE HAZARDS:

1. Falls: These include employee falls from elevation, machines or leading edges.
2. Electrocutation hazards: These include striking underground and overhead electrical lines, as well as contact with energized electrical system components.
3. Struck-by hazards: These include track hoe swing radius, moving traffic and back-over injuries.
4. Caught-in-or-between hazards: These include falling objects, moving machine pinch-points and tipping materials.

### USE THESE BEST PRACTICES TO KEEP ROADSIDE WORKERS SAFE:

- Even small jobs require proper work zone setup. This includes warning devices like cones, amber lighting and high-visibility apparel.
- Protect confined space workers that enter manways in the street, along the curb or on sidewalks.
- Never assume drivers will see you and react appropriately in your work zone.
- Some motorists have poor eyesight and health. Barriers are helpful for drivers that react too late, or do not react at all.
- Whenever exiting your vehicle or machine along a roadway, wear high-visibility fluorescent apparel.
- High-visibility clothing increases visibility during dawn and dusk hours.
- Wear high-visibility apparel whenever traffic or moving construction equipment causes struck-by hazards for employees.
- Use proper flood lighting when working at night. Make sure flood lighting does not blind approaching vehicles.
- Make sure road cones and amber warning lights do not confuse motorists. Clearly identify the route through the work zone.
- Move non-essential vehicles, machines and personnel away from moving traffic.
- All employees, including flaggers, should have safety training. Specific training on hazards specific to each jobsite is recommended.
- Survey your roadside jobsite for hazards on a regular basis.

*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and the Missouri Common Ground Alliance assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a qualified safety professional.*

