



# Toolbox Talks

## Spotlight on Safety



## Rules of the Road

Working near roads and highways can be very dangerous if you don't pay attention and follow the rules. In addition to all the other things you may have learned about utility construction, working near traffic adds a lot of extra hazards to consider so you can go home in one piece after a hard day's work. Let's take a look at what you must consider:

- ▲ Always be aware of traffic and equipment movement in the work area.
- ▲ Wear a brightly colored traffic vest that is clean and in good condition—lime green and fluorescent orange with reflective tape are the most visible colors.
- ▲ Don't forget your hard hat and safety glasses.
- ▲ Utilize the buddy system to watch out for each other.
- ▲ Do not cross bi-directional traffic or barrier walls on freeways or interstates.
- ▲ Stay on the working side of barriers and never step out into traffic.
- ▲ Do not turn your back to traffic.
- ▲ Don't place yourself where you can be crushed between a vehicle and a structure or fixed object, and always plan your escape route.
- ▲ Stay clear of dump trucks and heavy equipment and make sure the operator sees you if you have to approach the truck or equipment.
- ▲ Listen for backup alarms. Some drivers also beep their horn, so look around when you hear a beep.
- ▲ Do not hitch a ride on equipment or truck sideboards.

Traffic moves fast, and drivers are not always paying attention. If you let down your guard, a vehicle moving 60 miles per hour (88 feet per second) can be on you in seconds. Stay alert!

Follow all safety rules and procedures. Always take the time to survey your work area each day for potential hazards, because jobsites change quickly. Common sense and safety precautions save lives.

***Remember: no job is so urgent and no task so important that you cannot take the time to do it safely.***

*Our thanks to the Ohio Contractors Association for the ideas and information included in this Toolbox Talk.*

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