



SHIFT BRIEFING



MOBILE WORK ZONE BEST PRACTICES

Over 1,000 workers are killed yearly in work zones on our nation's roadways. A New Jersey municipal worker was struck and killed in 2022 while working along a roadway. This briefing will discuss Mobile Work Zones and some best practices.

ASK: What is the definition of a Mobile Work Zone according to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control?

ANSWER: Operations that are continually moving or operations that make short stops, generally up to 15 minutes.

Such operations include trash collection and bulk pick-up, roadside leaf vacuuming and brush collection, pothole repair, and jetting or vacuuming catch basins. *Highlight today's operation.*

A common inclination is to reduce the level of safety because the job is over in less than 15 minutes, sometimes in less than 1 minute. This is a dangerous idea.

ASK: Why is it dangerous to reduce safety during today's task?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

- Distracted, fatigued, impaired, inexperienced, angry, and rushed drivers.
- Crowded street, heavy traffic, and minimal shoulders to go around.
- Sun glare and shadows.
- *Reinforce all of these things are present whether we stay in one place for 4 hours or we are at dozens of places in those same 4 hours.*

The challenge is how to keep a high level of safety at multiple stops while doing the job efficiently to minimize our time exposed to traffic.

ASK: What are two traffic safety items that MUST be present in a Mobile Work Zone?

ANSWER: 1) ANSI Class 2 or 3 high-visibility outerwear and 2) amber warning lights visible from the front and rear.

Some additional safety considerations include:

- Add an Arrow Board to the rear truck to provide a clearer message to a vehicle approaching from the rear.

ASK: When can't an Arrow board be used?

Answer: to close one lane on a two-lane road

Put up one Advanced Warning Sign. There are two ways to do this; 1) set the sign up at each stop or 2) set the sign up and complete several stops before retrieving the sign and repositioning it for the next group of stops. A good use of the second way is at the entrance to a development with one or two entrances.

ASK: What places might work for today's assignment?

- Have an employee flag behind the operation to warn approaching vehicles.

ASK: To do this in accordance with the MUTCD, what must the employee use?

ANSWER: a STOP-SLOW paddle. *Discuss how the paddle will be made available and used.*

- Have a vehicle with warning lights trail a safe distance behind the workers.

Certain locations and situations can create a challenge where minimum standards might not provide enough safety. Let's talk about some and how they:

- Intersections – working very close to an intersection may not give vehicles turning onto the road you are working on enough time to avoid work vehicles or workers.

ASK: Is that a possibility during today's assignment? Discuss answers and alternatives to add safety

- Severe curves or hills in the road - stopping just after a severe curve or hill may not give vehicles enough time to react to seeing work vehicles or workers.

- Especially heavy traffic periods or locations – some roads that must be worked on during today's assignment are known to have very heavy traffic, especially during morning and afternoon rush hours, school opening and closing, and maybe during lunch breaks.

ASK: Is that a possibility during today's assignment? Discuss answers and alternatives to add safety.

- *ASK: What other locations or situations may be encountered today? Discuss answers and alternatives to add safety.*

