



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____
 Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 456: Highway Shoulder Clean-Up Safety

Introduction: When a sign on the highway reads, “Adopt A Highway”, the next mile of the highway’s shoulder is being kept clean of litter by a specific business or a highway clean up crew. The safety required for the workers cleaning the roadside shoulder is of the utmost importance. Following are specifications for temporary traffic barriers, worker safety planning, and worker safety apparel:

Temporary traffic control selected for each situation depends on the type of highway, road user conditions, duration of operation, physical constraints, and the nearness of the work space to road users. Work sites should be designed on the assumption that drivers will only reduce their speeds if they clearly perceive a need to do so. Use all appropriate signage, taping, and flashing lights.

- **Before work begins**, all necessary signs should be in place. Signs in place along the workspace depend on factors such as lateral clearance of workers from adjacent traffic, speed of traffic, duration and type of operations, time of day, and volume of traffic.
- **The advanced warning area** is the section of highway where users are informed about the upcoming work area. The advance warning sign may vary from a single sign, or a rotating, flashing, or strobe light on a vehicle. Each work area should be adequately signed to inform road users and reduce confusion. Use a Person Working symbol sign on a tripod stand.
- **Reduced speed limits** are used only in the specific area of work where conditions or restrictive features are present. Avoid frequent and abrupt changes in geometrics such as lane narrowing, dropped lanes, or main roadway transitions that require rapid maneuvers. Channelization of road users should be accomplished by the use of pavement markings, signing, and crashworthy, detectable channelizing devices. Sandbags can be placed on the lower parts of the frame to provide ballast.
- **Signs and symbols must be** visible at all times when work is being performed. They are to be removed when hazards no longer exist. Use a caution sign to warn against potential hazards, or to caution against unsafe practices.
- **Signals are to be used** as moving signs, provided by workers, such as flaggers, or by devices, such as flashing lights, to warn of possible or existing hazards. Flaggers are used when barriers and warning signs cannot effectively control moving traffic.
- **An “End Road Work” sign should be** used to inform road users that they can resume normal operations.



Option: Advanced warning may be eliminated when the activity area is sufficiently removed from the road users’ path so that it does not interfere with the normal flow. Notify all workers that they are to be aware of this designation.



Workers Training: All workers are required to be trained on how to work next to motor vehicle traffic in a way that minimizes their vulnerability. Each person whose actions are affected must receive training appropriate to the job each individual is assigned.

Activity area is the work space, the traffic space, and the buffer space. The work space may be stationary, or move as work progresses.

- **Work equipment**, workers’ private vehicles, materials, and debris should be stored in such a manner to reduce the probability of being impacted by run-off-the-road vehicles. Folding barricades with red (danger) or yellow (caution) tape will seal area off.
- **All workers exposed** to the risks of moving roadway traffic should wear high-visibility safety apparel, or equivalent revisions, and labeled as standard performance for Class 1, 2, or 3 risk exposures. A competent person, designated by the employer to be responsible for the worker safety plan within the activity area of the job site, should make the selection of the proper garment. If work extends into the evening, reflective stripes running front to back, and side to side, should be worn.
- **Flaggers must** wear orange, yellow, or yellow-green warning garments and they must be trained in proper procedures.
- **Workers should** wear a sunblock to protect their skin from burns in areas of the body that are exposed to continuous, direct sunlight. During the summer, workers should wear light-colored cotton clothing and broad brimmed hats. In the winter, workers should wear layered clothing to create air pockets that help retain body heat. Wear comfortable boots. Eye protection should be considered when the wind is blowing. Dust masks should be worn where dust is present in the air. Wear safety gloves.

Conclusion: Highways, freeways, and road shoulders all across America are kept clean by businesses and clean up crews. The safety required for the workers cleaning the roadside shoulders comes first. The proper temporary traffic barriers, worker safety planning, and proper worker apparel will ensure a safe environment in which they work.



Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures: _____
 (My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor’s Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.