

Section 21: TRAFFIC CONTROL AND FLAGGING

INTRODUCTION

Many King County employees perform work on public roads and highways. Often, the work performed affects the usual flow of traffic. If work is occurring where vehicle traffic is possible, traffic control procedures and devices must be used in accordance with Part VI of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and Washington State WAC 296-155-305.

Flaggers may be a component of a traffic control plan. If signs, signals and barricades do not provide necessary protection at work zones, then flaggers or other appropriate traffic controls must be used. However, flaggers are to be used only when other reasonable traffic control methods will not adequately control traffic in the work zone.

APPLICABILITY

This section applies to any County employee who may have traffic control responsibilities. This includes employees who have traffic control duties only occasionally, such as temporarily relieving another crew member.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors are to:

- Determine what traffic control measures and equipment are needed, taking into account traffic conditions, road conditions, time of day, weather and other factors. These duties may be delegated to others, as appropriate.
- Ensure that job site workers with specific traffic control responsibilities are trained in traffic control techniques, device usage, and placement.
- Ensure that each traffic control flagger has the qualifications, training and equipment necessary to perform the assigned task in accordance with the MUTCD.

At a minimum, traffic control flaggers must have a stop/slow paddle, an ANSI Class 2 high-visibility garment (vest or shirt), safety shoes and a hard hat before approaching any right-of-way to control traffic.

During hours of darkness (1/2 hour before sunset until 1/2 hour after sunrise), traffic control flaggers must also wear white coveralls, or coveralls or trousers having retro-reflective banding on the legs. Rain gear pants often meet this requirement. Additionally, the hard hat must be marked with at least 12 square inches of retro-reflective material

applied to provide 360 degrees of visibility. Flagger stations shall be illuminated during hours of darkness by floodlights that do not create glare that poses a hazard for drivers.

WAC 296-155-305 also requires a series of 3 or 4 advance warning signs for all flagging operations.

- Ensure Flagger stations are positioned appropriately.

Flagger stations must be located far enough in advance of the work space so that the approaching road users will have sufficient distance to stop before entering the work space.

Flaggers must stand either on the shoulder or in a closed lane prior to stopping road users. A flagger may only stand in the lane being used by moving road users after road users have stopped. A flagger shall not flag traffic from within an intersection. Further, flaggers must be positioned so they are not exposed to traffic or equipment approaching them from behind.

Employees are to:

- Perform traffic control/flagging duties in accordance with the MUTCD and WAC 296-155-305.
- Report any deficiencies that affect their ability to adequately control traffic in compliance with the MUTCD and WAC 296-155-305.

King County Safety and Health Trainers are to:

- Provide training, on request, to employees in King County departments, divisions, and agencies whose job duties include traffic control.

TRAINING

King County Safety and Claims Management offers the State of Washington Flagger Certification Course. This is required for any employee whose duties include temporary traffic control. Training must be updated every three years.

REFERENCES

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
WAC 296-155-305
WAC 468-95-302