

LOSS CONTROL DATA GUIDE

## Traffic Control Use Of Flagpersons

On many construction job sites, the use of flagpersons to control traffic is highly desirable. Fixed warning signs, barricades, traffic cones, temporary traffic signals, and other mandated traffic control devices will help make the construction site safer. However, there is no safe substitute for flagpersons when traffic passing through the site may be required to stop due to conflicts with construction equipment, when blasting activity is undertaken, when the travel path cannot accommodate two-way traffic, or in similar situations.

When a decision to use flagpersons has been made, the following points should be considered:

- Personnel selected to perform flagperson duties should be responsible individuals, be in good physical condition (including vision and hearing), and have a courteous but firm manner.
- Flagpersons should be properly dressed. Use of fluorescent orange or yellow colored hat and vest, shirt, or jacket is suggested. Clothing should have reflectorized material if worn at dusk/night.
- Proper equipment should be provided. A two-sided sign paddle is generally suggested. In some situations, red flags or lights with red colored lenses may be substituted depending on local/state law. If the flagpersons will not be able to see the entire area controlled, two-way radios should be provided.
- Personnel should be properly trained. See instructions on the reverse side that may be tailored to your specific needs.

- Flagpersons should be positioned no closer than 100 feet from the work area being protected. They must be located in such a manner that approaching drivers can see them from at least 500 feet.
- Signalling directions by flagpersons shall conform to American National Standards Institute D6.1-1971 "Manual or Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways".

### Instructions to flagpersons

You have been chosen to perform a very important duty. As flagperson in the area to which you have been assigned, you are charged with the responsibility of protecting the lives of fellow employees working on the highway and also the safe guidance of traffic through the work area. They depend on you!

It is of extreme importance that you give your undivided attention to your duties as flagperson. The following instructions have been prepared to assist you in fully understanding these duties. You should thoroughly familiarize yourself with the provisions and to perform the flagging operations as outlined.

1. You should be able to see your fellow workers and equipment at work, or know what they are doing if they are out of sight around a curve or over a hill.
2. You should position yourself so that you can be seen by approaching motorists soon enough so they are able to stop.
3. The supervisor in charge will tell you where to stand. If you are not sure, ask him/her. Do not stand in the traffic lane!

4. In daylight, you should have hand paddle having the words “Stop and Slow” on either side, or a red flag. You will be instructed on proper usage.
5. At night, you should have a red lantern as well as a flashlight, if provided.
6. While a fluorescent orange garment must be worn during the daytime, at night you should also wear a reflecting belt, or your clothing should be reflectorized.
7. To stop traffic, stand in a safe position, either on the shoulder or barricaded lane facing traffic with the “Stop” sign extended into the approach lane. Look directly at the approaching driver, and with the free arm upraised, the palm of the hand exposed to the driver, bring him/her to a stop.

After the first vehicle has been stopped, move to a conspicuous position near the center line (but never into the opposite lane) so as to be readily seen by following drivers. Remain in this position with the “Stop” sign displayed to drivers who have been stopped, until it becomes your turn to permit traffic to pass through the work area. You should be visible to approaching traffic at all times.

8. After vehicle stops, if possible, inform the driver of the reason for the stop—Be polite even if he isn’t. Explain the delay in few words, such as “Blasting up ahead,” “Fresh Oil,” “Loose Gravel.” Whenever possible, a “Thank You” will help.
9. To release traffic, turn the “Slow” side of the sign to face stopped vehicle and with the free arm indicate to the drivers they are to proceed into the proper lane. Never wave the sign.
10. You have a responsible job. You are protecting your fellow workers on the job. You are responsible for the safe guidance of traffic through the work area.
11. Don’t leave your post unprotected. Everyone is depending on you.
12. Flagpersons should be stationed at a control point at each end of the route that will permit easy passing of opposing lines of vehicles.

Contact your local Great American Loss Prevention Specialist for additional information.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to imply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.