

# TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL: FLAGGING

## Qualifications for Flaggers:

- Ability to receive and communicate specific instructions clearly, firmly, and courteously.
- Ability to move and maneuver quickly in order to avoid danger from errant vehicles.
- Ability to control signaling devices (such as paddles or flags) in order to provide clear and positive guidance to drivers approaching a temporary traffic control zone in frequently changing situations.
- Ability to understand and apply safe traffic control practices, sometimes in stressful or emergency situations.
- Ability to recognize dangerous traffic situations and warn workers in sufficient time to avoid injury.
- Flaggers should be properly trained.



## High Visibility Apparel:

- Background (outer) material shall be either fluorescent orange-red or fluorescent yellow-green.
- Retroreflective material color shall be orange, yellow, white, silver, yellow-green, or a fluorescent version of these colors.
- This allows worker to be visible for at least 1,000 feet.
- Vest must be performance D.O.T. ANSI Class 2 for daytime use and performance D.O.T. ANSI Class 3 for nighttime use.

## Hand-Signaling Devices:

- These devices are used to control road users through temporary traffic control zones.
- STOP/SLOW Paddles: Primary and preferred method. Shall have an octagonal shape on a rigid handle.
- STOP/SLOW Paddles with Lights: can be used to make device more visible.
- Flags: should be limited to emergency situations, and the free edge of a flag must be weighted to hang vertically, even in heavy winds.
- Flaggers should use authorized signaling methods.



## Flagger Stations:

- Shall be located such that approaching road users will have sufficient distance to stop at the intended stopping point.
- Shall be located such that an errant vehicle has additional space to stop without entering the work space.
- Shall be preceded by an advance warning sign or signs.
- Except in emergency situations, stations shall be illuminated at night.
- Flaggers should stand alone.
- Flaggers should stand on either the shoulder adjacent to the road user being controlled or in the closed lane prior to stopping road users.



Source: MUTCD 2003 Edition revised 2009