

WORK ZONE SAFETY:

A work zone is a complicated environment that can involve lane closures, detours, moving equipment, utility repairs, and other hazardous activities. While work zones are necessary to construct and maintain roadways and adjacent facilities, they can result in crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Are you *R.O.A.D. Ready* when your job is in a work zone? Remember the R.O.A.D. acronym:

Recognize the Hazards:

- Visit the work zone site in advance to identify any potential issues, such as traffic conditions, obstructed views, overhead and/or underground utility lines (always use “Call Before You Dig”), and excavation, and equipment placement.
- Are there environmental concerns, such as low light, severe weather, fall hazards, or significant heat/cold exposures?
- Proactively conduct table-top exercises to prepare for incident response and improvement in policies, procedures, and training before an incident occurs.

Observe People, Processes, and Equipment:

- What are the physical conditions of the work zone?
- Is equipment in good working order and are workers properly using it?
- Do workers have appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment?
- Are workers empowered to question safety and make suggestions to improve it?

Assess the Risk Level:

- Is it possible to perform this task safely with current training, equipment, and conditions?
- Conduct an after-action review to see what can be learned and improved upon.

Determine the Safest Course of Action:

- In general, follow Chapter 6 of the [Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) and typical applications.
- If necessary, appoint a temporary work zone safety officer who can suspend work when safety concerns are raised.
- Ensure all traffic control devices (TCDs) are in good working condition and review traffic control plans for appropriate installation.

Pool-Provided Resources: TMLIRP Media Library

- Roadway Worker Safety: In the Zone – Disc #544
- Safety First: Night Work – Disc 205
- Defensive Flagging: A Survivor's Guide – Disc 23
- Safety First: Work Area Traffic Control – Disc 80
- LocaGovU Online Course – Work Zone Safety for Local Governments

Other Resources:

- [Texas Department of Insurance – Driving in Work Zones Fact Sheet](#)
- [Work Zones - Texas Department of Transportation](#)
- [Smart Work Zones – Texas Department of Transportation](#)
- [FHWA - National Highway Institute Courses in Work Zone Safety](#)
- <https://www.workzonesafety.org>
- [FHWA - Work Zone Traffic Management Program](#)

