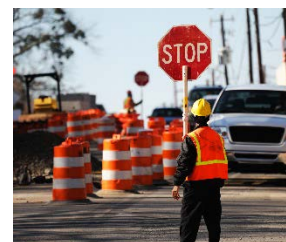


Timely debris removal from the roadway is crucial for public safety and efficient traffic flow. Accumulated debris can pose hazards to both vehicles and pedestrians, potentially causing accidents or injuries. Debris removal on or near roadways is a frequent and important local government process, but it should never be treated as routine. When conducting roadway debris removal, it is crucial to ensure the safety of both workers and the public. This involves specific measures to protect workers, ensure public safety, and manage traffic effectively. R.O.A.D. Ready (Recognize, Observe, Assess, & Determine) can be used to help improve awareness of hazards and increase safety when it's your job to keep roadways clear of debris.

1

Traffic Control & Scene Safety: Always wear high-visibility clothing. Set up cones, signs, or arrow boards per MUTCD standards before starting work. Position work vehicles as barriers with hazard lights on. Stay alert, face traffic when possible, and maintain an escape route. Never become complacent working on or near roadways.



2

Safe Handling Practices: Use tools to move debris when possible. Exercise back injury prevention, lift with your legs. Use help or equipment for heavy or awkward items. Avoid overexertion, especially in hot or cold or inclement weather.

3

Required PPE: Wear ANSI Class 2 or 3 high-visibility gear. Use safety boots, gloves, and, when needed, hard hats and safety glasses. Ensure PPE is worn properly and maintained. Make sure you are highly visible to motorists.



4

Environmental & Health Hazards: Avoid contact with unknown or hazardous materials. Do not move leaking or toxic items, report and isolate them. Handle biological waste (e.g., syringes, dead animals) with proper protection and dispose of it according to regulations.



5

Communication & Teamwork: When removing debris in disaster areas, everyone should remain vigilant. Maintain contact via radio or phone. Use a lookout to watch for traffic and hazards. Effective coordination improves safety and efficiency in operations.

LEARN MORE WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- TMLIRP Training Video Now Work Zone Safety [TrainingVideoNow](#)
- National Work Zone Safety: [Project Coordination in Work Zones — Workzone Safety Information Clearinghouse](#)
- Texas Department of Insurance: Cleaning Up After A Disaster [Safety at Work Free Online Safety Videos](#).
- TMLIRP ["High Visibility Apparel" T.I.P.S. Sheet](#)