

TOOL BOX TALKS

Reflective Safety Gear

Your reflective and fluorescent safety gear is some of the most valuable safety gear available today. Why? When working on a construction jobsite or roadway work zone, motorists can readily notice you. Reflective and fluorescent safety gear help motorists and equipment operators see you out of their peripheral (side) vision. Remember that as coveralls, jeans & shirts wear and get dirty they become "camouflage" on the jobsite, blending in with dirt work & excavations.

WORKSAFE TIPS

REFLECTIVE SAFETY GEAR

- Signaling by flaggers and the use of flaggers, including warning garments worn by flaggers shall conform to Part VI of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices ["MUTCD"]
- OSHA says flagmen shall be provided with and shall wear a red or orange warning garment while flagging. Warning garments worn at night shall be of reflective material.
- OSHA says that, for daytime work, the flagger's vest, shirt, or jacket shall be orange, yellow, strong yellow green or fluorescent versions of these colors.
- For nighttime work, similar outside garments shall be retro reflective.
- The retro reflective material shall be orange, yellow, white, silver, strong yellow-green, or a fluorescent version of one of these colors and shall be visible at a minimum distance of 1,000 feet.
- Wear reflective gear whenever there is an exposure to struck-by hazards like moving equipment and moving traffic.
- Federal Highway Administration will require Class 2 and 3 performance vests whenever work is being done on federal aid highways.
- High visibility clothing does perform a very important function by making workers more visible to vehicle drivers and equipment operators.
- When reflective garments are worn in dirty or oily environments, they will need to be laundered or replaced.

REFLECTIVE & FLUORESCENT GEAR HELPS DRAW ATTENTION TO YOU.



EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, OTHER DRIVERS & WORKERS CAN SEE YOU BETTER DURING DAWN, DUSK AND NIGHT TIME HOURS.

- Whenever laundered or soiled heavily, they lose their reflective strength. Replace whenever the vest looks old or faded.
- Don't wear the reflective vest, or keep it tied up tight, if there is a chance it can be caught in a PTO shaft or moving parts of a machine.
- Even drivers and equipment operators that are paying attention frequently find it difficult to see workers on foot or working along the roadway.
- A lot of work is being done at night, when light levels are low, at dawn, dusk and during rainy or snowy weather.
- Visibility problems are the cause for many of the deaths and injuries that happen when workers get hit by vehicles or mobile equipment.
- Reflective and fluorescent apparel serves as a first line of defense that protects workers against being hit by a vehicle or piece of equipment operated by someone who can't see them during the day or at night.



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