

Public Drivers – The Unknown Danger Field Training

The one thing that we have no control over is the public driver. We do not know what they are going to do or if they are paying attention to our men and equipment.

1. If possible, **always try to watch traffic**. When working on an open roadway, keep your eyes on traffic at all times. You don't know what they are going to do. Drinking, taking drugs, talking on the cell phone, or just not paying attention, they can drift into your work area very quickly. In most cases they are not watching out for you.
2. **Stay inside your barricades**. Don't walk outside your safety area which is inside our cones and barrels. Never step into the active lane of traffic.
3. **Keep your tools behind the safety zone**. When using long handle rakes, shovels, screeds, and such, keep them inside the closed lane area. Never stick the handle out into a lane with live traffic. If we must be in a live lane, then a flagger must be used to protect our people and the public.
4. **Try to never turn your back on traffic**. Why would you trust someone you do not know? Watch them like you and your family depended on it. Its that dangerous.
5. **PPE Stay visible**. You must wear a **Type 2 vest** when working near traffic lanes. It is not only an OSHA regulation, but it is a State law. At night you must move up to a **Type 3 vest**. Vests must be zipped up to qualify as a type 2 or 3 vest. They have a specific amount of reflective material exposed and when not zipped up; it is not visible.
6. Like always keep aware of your surroundings. **Have an escape route** in mind. Where will I run if I need to? Look around and keep in mind that you may only have seconds to run.
7. When you are working – you know what is going on and where people should be, but the traveling public doesn't know. They will come up to you at a high rate of speed and not know what is happening or where they should be. They only have a second or two to figure it out. If they are distracted, drugged or sleepy they may not have enough time to react. **WATCH OUT**

Keep in mind that almost every day we have applicants fail the company drug tests. They walk out, get in their car and drive where you are working. Think of all the ones we don't know about that are out driving where you are trying to work.