

## Safety Corner

### Safety for construction/maintenance next to live traffic

While speeding traffic is the number one cause of death and injury to roadside construction and maintenance workers, other major causes of casualties are also related to drivers, who:

- fail to notice road workers or slow down near work zone due to inadequate sign and lighting
- distracted by cellular phone calls, conversations, and activities at the roadside
- distracted by Improper temporary traffic lanes layout near work site
- try to beat traffic but fail, and end up driving into work zones and endanger the lives of workers.

Management of road works must be carefully planned and administered to avoid accidents. While management guidelines of construction zones are very comprehensive; here are a few examples of how effective management can limit the risk of accidental road accidents:

- Signs must be well maintained and kept clean
- Workers operating temporary traffic controls must be properly trained; they must know where to stand, how to slow or stop traffic, and how to coordinate public and construction traffic movements
- Traffic controllers should use two-way radio communication when visual contact between traffic controllers is not possible
- All road workers, including traffic controllers, should wear suitable high visibility clothing to ensure that they can be seen by motorists
- Unnecessary traffic control signs or road markings must be removed as they tend to confuse motorists and make them careless
- Speed limits should be consistent with safe site operations and traffic movements; If motorists perceive a speed limit to be unrealistic, they are likely to disregard it
- A systematic preventative maintenance programme should be established for all trucks, plant, and vehicles
- All entry /exit access points of construction area should be properly controlled and signed

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The Safety Corner is contributed by Ir Prof. Vincent Ho, who can be contacted at [vsho@UCLA.edu](mailto:vsho@UCLA.edu)