

Road and street works safety

Reason	Over 1,000 road accidents occur at road works each year. In many cases, advance warning and protection of the works were inadequate.
Outline	This talk covers the precautions necessary to protect you and road users.



Traffic control



Operatives must wear the correct PPE



Signage must be clear

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Personal safety

1. Ensure that a coned-off safety zone exists around the works.
2. Do not enter the safety zone in the normal course of your work.
3. Wear appropriate high-visibility clothing, safety helmet and safety footwear at all times.
4. Wear other personal protective equipment (PPE) that is necessary for the task, as identified in your risk assessment.
5. Wash hazardous substances off exposed skin immediately. Barrier creams might help.
6. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun is a major cause of skin cancer and cases have doubled in the last 20 years. Around 800 construction workers are diagnosed with skin cancer every year as a result of exposure to UV radiation.
7. Take the correct precautions when working in excavations.
8. Take the correct precautions when underground services are to be uncovered.

Consider road users

1. Ensure that appropriate warning signs are displayed and correctly positioned.
2. Ensure temporary traffic management on high-speed roads is only carried out by certified contractors.
3. Cone off a tapered, lead-in zone to ease traffic movement past the works.
4. Erect barriers around all excavations and position lighting for safety at night.
5. Allow sufficient footway width for pedestrians to pass, or barrier off a temporary footway in the road.
6. Install appropriate and efficient traffic control measures.
7. Keep disruption to a minimum by reducing dust, noise and vibration so that road traffic and pedestrians are not adversely affected.
8. Position plant and equipment so that no part of it (for example, a swinging jib or excavator arm) encroaches into the safety zone.
9. Do not store tools, materials, equipment or plant in the safety zone.
10. Site traffic entering or leaving the works must not endanger other road users.
11. Take precautions to prevent mud or other debris being deposited on roads or footpaths, whether within the work area or not.



What precautions should you take when using a disc-cutter?

At what angle from the kerb should the lead-in cones be positioned?

What is the difference between safety zone, working space and work area?

What is the most effective way of protecting against sunburn?

Where should you keep PPE when it is not being worn or used?

What action should you take if you get wet cement on exposed skin?



The stopping distance for a car travelling at 60 mph is 96 m (314 feet). The average driver will have travelled for at least 21 m before braking if you step out in front of them at this speed.