

Operator Quiz Corner
Using Flaggers in Work Zones
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Water and wastewater utility projects frequently take place on active roadways, making effective traffic control a critical component of public and worker safety. One proven way to enhance work zone safety is the use of certified flaggers who are trained to manage traffic flow in accordance with state and federal standards.

In Massachusetts flaggers must have taken a MassDOT-approved flagger training that is renewed every two years.

Flaggers must have a valid First Aid Certification and be at least 18 years of age. Flaggers must wear Class 2 or 3 high visibility safety apparel (ANSI/ISEA 107-2004) and be positioned at least 100 feet in front of the work space. A FLAGGER AHEAD sign should be placed at least 500 feet ahead of the flagger. A STOP/SLOW paddle should be the primary and preferred hand-signaling device because the paddle gives the driver more positive guidance than the use of flags. Flags should only be used in emergency situations. Paddles must comply with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and be at least 18" wide with 6" lettering. The flagger should stand either on the shoulder adjacent to the road being used or in the closed lane.

MWWA will be offering a MassDOT-approved flagger certification training in Marion, MA on Thursday, April 30th. This course is approved for 3.0 Training Contact Hours (TCHs) for both MA water and wastewater operators. For more information and to register use this link [\[insert registration link\]](#). The use of Certified Flaggers must be coordinated with all local authorities.

- 1) What is the primary responsibility of a work zone flagger?
 - a) Enforce work zone speed limits
 - b) **Direct and control traffic safely**
 - c) Report all traffic violations to the local authorities
 - d) Ensure that the project is on time and under budget
 - e) All of the above

- 2) Which item is required PPE for flaggers in construction work zones?
 - a) Safety goggles
 - b) **High-visibility vest meeting ANSI/ISEA standards**
 - c) Steel-toe shoes
 - d) Hearing protection

- e) All of the above

3) What is the safest position for a flagger during active excavation work?

- a) Next to the excavation edge
- b) **Behind protective barriers when possible**
- c) 100 feet in front of the Transition area
- d) 500 feet in front of the Activity area
- e) Depends on the width of the roadway and time of day

4) How far ahead of the work space must a flagger be positioned?

- a) **100 ft**
- b) 200 ft
- c) 500 ft
- d) 1000 ft
- e) Depends on the width of the roadway and the time of day

5) Which device is most commonly used by flaggers to control traffic?

- a) Flashing beacon
- b) **STOP/SLOW paddle**
- c) Traffic cones at least 36 inches high with high visibility horizontal stripes
- d) Temporary saw horses with reflective tape