

Safe and Effective Use of Law Enforcement Personnel in Work Zones

Module 3.3 Recommended Practices



Module 3.3

Module 3 includes the following:

Lesson 3.1— Typical Work Zone Applications

- Types of work zone applications

Lesson 3.2 — Placement of LEO vehicles in work zones

- Placement of LEO vehicles in stationary and mobile work zones

Lesson 3.3 — Recommended Practices

- Recommended practices and procedures for LEOs in work zones

Objectives of this Lesson

When you complete this lesson, you should be able to identify good practices for LEOs:

- Before work zones are installed
- On arrival at the work zone, before work begins
- While on duty at work zones
- When leaving work zones

Before Work Zones Are Installed

- The need for LEOs is determined by SHA during the development of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the project
- A law enforcement representative of the MSP may be asked to attend a pre-construction conference and/or may be asked to review the TCP for projects or project phases where LEO services are required

Before Work Zones Are Installed

✓ Pre-Construction Conference

If possible, LEOs should attend the pre-construction conference. The pre-construction conference provides project stakeholders the opportunity to discuss:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Construction details
- Procedures and schedules
- Questions and answers

Before Work Zones Are Installed

When a LEO is assigned to a work zone:

- Identify your point of contact (POC) - Project Engineer or Traffic Manager
 - Project Engineer
 - Traffic Manager
- If practical, obtain a copy of the traffic control plan (TCP)

Arrival at the Work Zone

Contact your point of contact (POC)

- Sign in with the project engineer (PE) or his/her designee
- Verify the project schedule/duration of work
- Identify your role
- Check with the POC for the preferred LEO vehicle location

Arrival at the Work Zone

- ✓ Arrive Early
 - Plan to arrive in the work zone at least 15 minutes before TCDs are being installed to ensure maximum effect on motorist behavior
 - Become familiar with the work zone
 - Drive through the work zone, in both directions
 - Note signs in the advance warning area
 - Observe the layout of the work zone, including the channelizing devices, protection vehicles etc.
 - Identify possible relocating procedures
 - Continue monitoring traffic flow while deployed in the work zone

While on Duty in Work Zones

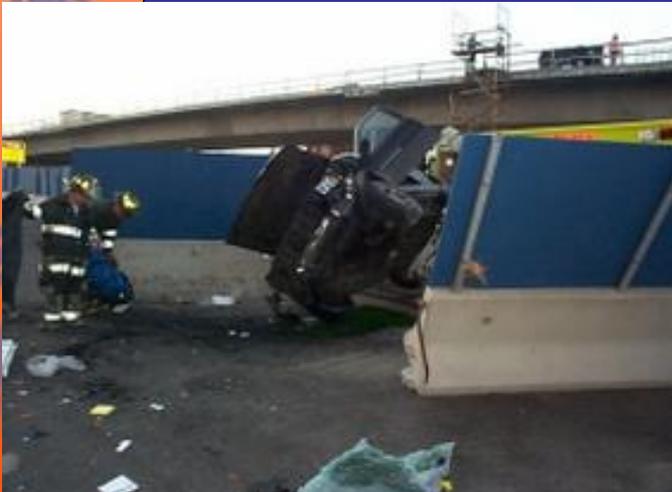
- ✓ Be Visible
 - Emergency lights should be activated on the LEO vehicle
 - NO headlights
 - At a minimum, LEOs must wear ANSI/ISEA 2004 Class II, High Visibility Safety Apparel, per SHA policy, when outside the LEO vehicle

***YOUR VISIBILITY IS
CRITICAL***

While on Duty in Work Zones

✓ Be Alert!

Pay attention to traffic and the work zone operation



- Do not become distracted by other activities
- Watch for the formation of queues and relocate as necessary
- Ensure the safety of the workers, the public and yourself

ASK YOURSELF: Do I have an escape route if a vehicle is heading my way?

While on Duty in Work Zones

✓ Stay in Communication

- Communicate with key people in the work zone
- Remain in radio contact with the local dispatch
- Inform the POC if you see conditions that affect your safety or those of workers and the public
- Inform your POC if you are called away from work zone duty



Leaving Work Zones

- If safe to do so, remain an additional 15 minutes to monitor the traffic flow
- Sign out with the PE or his/her designee

Take a Team Approach

Work zone safety requires a team approach.

- Report potential problems to your POC
- Conditions can change quickly. Do not assume that other stakeholders will identify safety issues in time
- Use work zone training to identify potential problems

Develop relationships with key staff in work zones

- Easier to communicate when issues surface
- Provides good source of information when you have questions
- Helps others understand your role

In Summary

BE:

- Alert
- Visible
- Safe

KNOW:

- The POC
- TCP - You are not responsible for TCP implementation, but you can identify potential issues
- Your role and responsibilities

DO:

- Familiarize yourself with the project
- Identify problems and bring to POCs attention
- Communicate with team members

True/False

Question 1

Presence duty requires little situational awareness from LEOs.

A.True

B.False

Multiple Choice

Question 2

Briefings for LEOs in work zones should take place:

- A. On a daily basis.
- B. When traffic control plans change.
- C. When deemed necessary by the project engineer.

Multiple Choice

Question 3

Which of the following does not fall within the duties/responsibilities of a LEO in a work zone?

- A. Determine safe deployment location.
- B. Implement the TCP.
- C. Identify potential hazards.
- D. Communicate with POC.

True/False

Question 4

The SHA does not have standard operating procedures for requesting the services of LEOs in work zones.

A.True

B.False

Answer Key

1. B

2. C

3. B

4. B

Contact Information

Clarence Haskett

Maryland State Highway Administration

Office of Traffic and Safety

410-787-5876

chaskett@sha.state.md.us

