

Traffic Control 101



When to use it?

- ▶ When asked by your Incident Commander!
- ▶ Vehicle Incidents
- ▶ Temporary Road Closures
 - ▶ Flooding
 - ▶ Fire
 - ▶ Storm Damage
 - ▶ Special Events
- ▶ Detours



Who or what is at risk?

- ▶ Responders
- ▶ Public
 - ▶ “motoring public” in traffic backlogs/detours
 - ▶ Other road users
- ▶ Victims of the crash/incident
- ▶ 1 lane of closure for 20 minutes = \$10,000 in lost revenue



What's the Typical Driver's Perception/ Reaction Time?

0.5 seconds

1.0 seconds

1.5 seconds

2.0 seconds

2.5 seconds

4.0 seconds

As much
as 2.5
seconds



Be prepared for drivers who don't stop...

A vehicle will travel the following distances in 2.5 seconds...

Mph	Feet
10	37
20	74
30	110
40	147
50	184
60	202
65	239
75	276

Almost the length of a football field!

At night - How far away can you see headlights?

The average person can see high beams pointed towards them at 300 feet. Low beams are 100 feet.



Uniform

- ▶ Safety Reflective Vest
- ▶ Closed Toe Shoes
- ▶ Whistle
- ▶ Hand held sign or flashlight



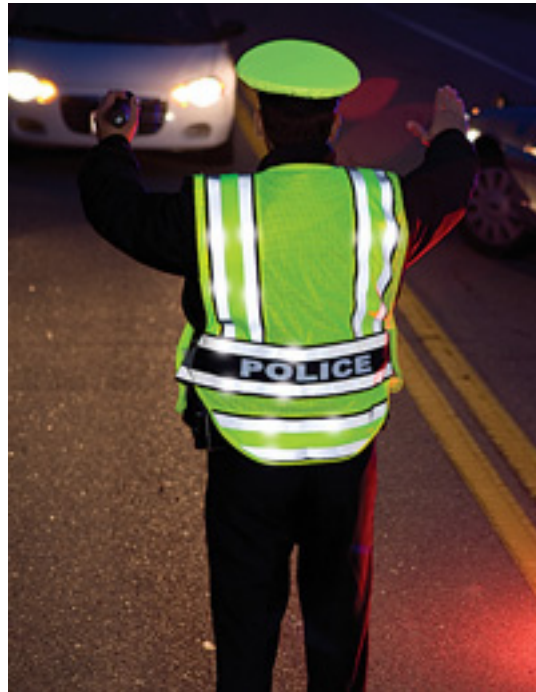
Class 1 Garments

- ▶ Intended for use in activities that permit the wearer's full and undivided attention to approaching traffic. There should be ample separation of the worker from traffic, which should be traveling no faster than 25 miles per hour.
- ▶ Parking lot attendants; People retrieving shopping carts from parking lots



Class 2 Garments

- ▶ Intended for use in activities where greater visibility is necessary during inclement weather conditions or in work environments with risks that exceed those for Class 1 or perform tasks that divert their attention from approaching traffic, or that put them in close proximity to passing vehicles traveling faster than 25 mph.



Class 3 Garments

- ▶ The highest level of visibility in the ANSI standard, and are intended for workers who face serious hazards and often have high task loads that require attention away from their work. Garments for these workers should provide enhanced visibility to more of the body, such as the arms and legs.



You will never be a class 3 worker!

Uniforms

Class 1 and 2

Class 3 Uniform

Navy Blue Duty
Uniform



Basic Rules For Executing Hand Signals

- Stand erect with feet 8 to 10 inches apart
- Let your arms hang naturally
- Distribute weight evenly on both feet
- Stand with shoulders parallel to moving traffic
- Look directly at driver to gain his or her attention before giving a signal
- Make sure traffic is stopped before changing direction of traffic flow

Remember:

Look—at the traffic situation

Execute—the correct signal

Complete—the signal and make sure it's obeyed

Flagger Fundamentals

- ▶ Flagger must be CLEARLY seen by standing out from the background
- ▶ Standing at a distance sufficient to permit driver response and speed reduction time
- ▶ Primary function is to provide safety for incident response personnel, motorists and pedestrians traveling through area.
- ▶ Flaggers are responsible for life safety.
- ▶ Flaggers must stop traffic intermittently and maintain flow at reduced speeds.



Flagger Position

- ▶ Primary concern of your safety!
- ▶ Be visible!
- ▶ Know in advance of your incident area or at intersection
- ▶ Keep away from roadway obstructions - uncluttered areas.



What's
wrong
with this
photo?

Flagger Position- Time to Practice!

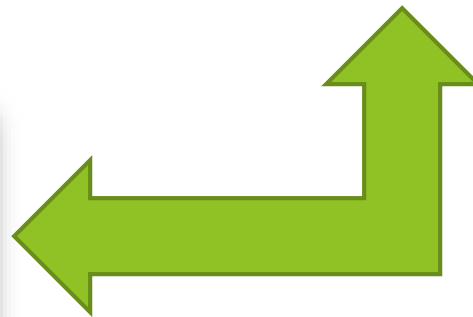
- ▶ Use shoulder adjacent to traffic.
 - ▶ In intersection, stand in center of intersection only if accompanied by professional.
- ▶ Have escape route
- ▶ Stand alone (unless working in tandem)
- ▶ Face oncoming traffic
- ▶ Watch for turns
- ▶ Above all, be seen and be safe!

Hands, Tools and Gear

- ▶ In traffic control you may use:
 - ▶ Hand signals
 - ▶ Whistles
 - ▶ Voice commands (rarely)
 - ▶ Flashlights, flares
 - ▶ Cones, barricades
 - ▶ Or even a vehicle



Thou
shall not
dance.
EVER.



Hand Signals

- ▶ Art of the Hand Signal
 - ▶ Make eye contact with the driver
 - ▶ Give only one direction at a time
 - ▶ Precise motions



Hand Signals - STOP

- ▶ Point - arm and finger extended - look straight driver
- ▶ Hold until driver sees
- ▶ Raise pointing hand so palm is toward driver at a 45 degree angle.
- ▶ Hold this position until driver stops



Hand Signals - Two Way STOP

- ▶ STOP two directions
- ▶ Stop traffic coming from one direction first
- ▶ Hold hand in stop position, turn to other side - repeat
- ▶ Don't lower either arm until both lanes have stopped



To halt traffic approaching
from the front and behind

Hand Signals - START

- ▶ Place yourself so that one side is toward the traffic to be started:
 - ▶ Point with arm and finger toward first car
 - ▶ With palm up, swing hand up and over chin, bending arm at elbow
 - ▶ After traffic starts from one side, turn to other side and repeat



To beckon on traffic approaching from either side

Hand Signals - KEEP MOVING

- ▶ Continue using same hand signal for the slow or timid, not everyone will keep going.



To beckon on traffic approaching from the front



To beckon on traffic approaching from either side

Hand Signals - Turns

- ▶ Stop traffic in lanes car is going to cross
- ▶ Left Turn:
 - ▶ Give stop signal with right arm to stop traffic in lane being crossed
 - ▶ Hold stop signal with right arm and give turning gesture with left arm
- ▶ Right Turn:
 - ▶ Turn around to face in direction car is to go
 - ▶ Halt traffic with right arm and give turning gesture with left arm

Hand Signals

- ▶ In a intersection with only one lane in each direction:
 - ▶ Left turners can block traffic
 - ▶ While driver is waiting, signal driver into middle of intersection
 - ▶ Point at driver, motion to move forward and point to place where you want them to stop
 - ▶ Permit left turn when safe

The Whistle

- ▶ Whistle use:
 - ▶ One long blast with “stop” command
 - ▶ Two short blast with the “start” command
 - ▶ Several shot blasts to get the “attention” of a driver
 - ▶ A short, intermittent, blast to “keep the traffic moving”

Voice Commands

- ▶ Seldom heard in traffic
- ▶ Hand signals and whistles are most efficient
- ▶ Shouted orders may antagonize a driver
- ▶ When a driver or pedestrian don't understand a command, move closer to them and explain



Flashlights

- ▶ Flashlights can be used to direct traffic at night
- ▶ Flashlights with colored extensions work for evening, foggy or rainy weather



Flashlights

Direct Traffic	Halt Traffic
Don't stand directly in front of approaching vehicle	Swing the flashlight at arm's length across the path of the approaching vehicle
Avoid blinding the driver with flashlight beam	Allow flashlight beam to wash across the pavement as an elongated moving spot
Use a traffic cone to enhance safety	Once traffic has stopped, step in front of car and guide next lane of traffic

Practice and Questions

