

Traffic control and young workers

There's a lot more to traffic control jobs than simply holding a stop/slow sign.

At many construction and utility sites, young workers are often chosen for traffic control jobs in the summer. Doing traffic control may seem like the perfect summer job for a high school, college, or university student. They get to be outside all day, work in a busy, active environment, and learn about the industry.

The problem is that people sometimes underestimate how much training and orientation a traffic control person (TCP) needs. There's a lot more to it than simply holding a stop/slow sign.

If you are a young worker—or the parent of a young worker—doing traffic control this summer, make sure that the following items have been covered in the training and orientation:

- The plan for traffic protection and control has been explained to everyone on the jobsite, including the TCPs.
- The pathways for pedestrians, equipment, and vehicle traffic have been pointed out.
- The TCP has been shown the blind spots for the different vehicles and equipment that will be operated on site.
- Escape routes have been established for TCPs, especially if they are working near a highway or other busy road.
- The TCP has been told how the traffic control plan may be adjusted if road conditions change because of the weather.



The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association

has created a number of sector-specific health and safety resources to provide information on best practices and maintaining safe work environments during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Visit our website to learn more about preventing this health hazard.

ihsa.ca/urgent-notice/covid-19-main

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Work Safe for Life

- The TCP has been given the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for the hazards they will be exposed to. This could include a Class E hard hat, a pair of CSA-certified Grade-1 safety boots, and a high-visibility safety vest that complies with the OSHA regulations and meets the CSA standard for a Class-2 garment.
- The TCP knows the difference between a traffic control person and a signaller. TCPs should not perform the duties of a signaller unless they have been trained to do so.
- The TCP has been told about their rights as a worker:
 1. The right to know about workplace health and safety hazards.
 2. The right to participate in dealing with health and safety issues.
 3. The right to refuse work if they feel it will endanger them. They should also know that they are protected against reprisals if they express any concerns about their safety.



For more information about establishing safe traffic control procedures on a jobsite, order or download IHSA's pocket-sized *Handbook for Construction Traffic Control Persons* (B016). A French version is also available.

Visit our Products page at ihsa.ca/products

