

## Flagging/Flagger DO's

- Carry your valid flagger certification card
- Wear required vest and PPE
- Before each shift, acquaint yourself with current work zone operations and activities, so you can answer questions from the public
- Ensure you are visible to traffic at a minimum distance of 1,000-ft, and not located in a curve, over a hill, in a shaded area, etc.
- Identify an escape route
- Separate yourself from co-workers so motorists can identify you and your instructions
- Be prepared for inclement weather
- Be professional and courteous
- Keep your head on a swivel at all times
- Assume that drivers and the construction crew do not see you
- Be familiar with your flagger equipment and traffic control devices
- **ALWAYS BE ALERT!**

## Flagging/Flagger DONT's

- Flag when impaired
- Turn your back to live traffic
- Mingle with co-workers
- Listen to music or read
- Prop up or lean your STOP/SLOW paddle in or on anything
- Wave your paddle
- Use electronic devices (except for in case of emergencies or required communications with other workers)
- Leave your flagging station without proper relief or dismissal

## FLAGGING TOOLS

- STOP/SLOW Paddle
- Whistle or air horn to warn co-workers
- 2-Way radio for communications with other flaggers and the TCS (or your supervisor)
- Flashlight with 6" red glow cone or red lighted wand for nighttime flagging
- Flagger reference guide

## FLAGGER APPAREL / ATTIRE / PPE

- Hi-Visibility ANSI/ISEA Safety Vest - Type R, Class 2 or 3 depending on what is required. Fluorescent yellow-green (preferred) or fluorescent orange-red, or a combination of the two per the ANSI standard.
- Hard hat if required, but always recommended (check CDOT and OSHA requirements)
- Hard-toed shoes or boots if required, but always recommended (check CDOT and OSHA requirements)
- Outerwear for inclement weather, optional
- Safety glasses or goggles if required (check CDOT and OSHA requirements)

### ANSI/ISEA Type R

Class 2 Vest



Class 3 Vest



### ALLOWABLE ITEMS

- Food and drinks
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Dust mask
- Gloves, etc.

### PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Music player of any kind, including earbuds and headphones
- Chairs and Stools
- Personal vehicle or work vehicle
- Cell phone (can be used in emergencies, e.g. calling 911)
- Reading materials
- Alcoholic beverages and recreational drugs



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

# CDOT Flagger Reference Guide



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## FLAGGERS JOB

- Stop Traffic
- Release Traffic
- Slow/Alert Traffic

That is all a Flagger does!

But a Flagger has many responsibilities while carrying out their job duties.

Understand that Flaggers are not law enforcement and therefore do not have legal authority to override regulatory devices such as stop signs and traffic signals. Uniformed law enforcement officers (aka police officers) are responsible for traffic control in these instances. Flaggers can assist law enforcement officers outside of the intersection.

## STOPPING TRAFFIC

- Face road users and aim the STOP paddle face toward the road users in a stationary position with the arm extended horizontally away from the body.
- The free arm shall be held with the palm of the hand above shoulder level toward approaching traffic.
- Keep the paddle in the STOP position until it is time to release your traffic.



## RELEASING TRAFFIC

- Communicate with the other flagger(s) to ensure it is okay to release your traffic.
- When it is safe to let your traffic proceed, with the paddle still in the STOP position, move to the shoulder of the road and stand facing the traffic flow.
- While facing road users, turn the paddle to SLOW with your arm extended horizontally away from your body.
- Using your free arm, make a slow sweeping motion across your body to direct traffic to proceed.
- After the initial line of vehicles has passed, remain in place with the SLOW paddle aimed at road users, and motion later arriving vehicles to proceed.
- Keep the paddle in the SLOW position until it is time for you to stop traffic.



## SLOWING TRAFFIC (aka ALERTING TRAFFIC)

- If traffic appears to be going too fast you will need to alert them to slow down.
- To slow traffic, hold the SLOW paddle face toward road users with your arm extended horizontally away from your body.
- Motion up and down slowly with your free arm, palm facing down.



*Illustrations and flagging instructions are from the 2009 MUTCD.*

## FLAGGER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Protect the traveling public and yourself from construction and maintenance operations.
- Protect the work crew from the traveling public.
  - If an errant vehicle goes through the work zone, alert the construction crew with a whistle or air horn.
- Provide good traffic control to ensure traffic proceeds safely and efficiently through the work zone.