

FATAL ALERT

On June 18, 2015, an employee working for a road construction traffic control company died when a semi-tractor trailer struck her while flagging construction vehicles for entry onto I-80 struck her.

The employee was performing flagging activities for construction semi-tractor trailers that were hauling concrete millings. Once filled with concrete millings, the semi-tractor trailer would travel east on the east bound lane which was closed for construction. The trucks would then exit the eastbound lane onto a job site ramp that went under a bridge and then returned to the westbound lane where the employee was located.

While the employee was flagging construction traffic approximately 60' west of the end of the bridge guardrail, a truck driver, traveling west lost control of the semi-tractor trailer, which included a pup trailer and struck the employee.

Significant Factors

- The construction ramp being used was an on-site change that lacked appropriate planning.
- The employer did not provide adequate signage to warn oncoming traffic of trucks entering.
- The employer did not provide adequate flagger training.
- The location of the flagger was inappropriate.
- The flagger had been working for 12 hours at the time of the incident.
- The flagger was distracted with their back to oncoming traffic.
- The flagger at times was seated on a cooler which minimizing her ability to see.
- The truck driver's speed was inappropriate for the circumstances and he may have been distracted.

Recommendations

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal incident.
- Retrain all employees on the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control.
- Ensure that flagging procedures are properly followed.
- Ensure that changes to the traffic control plan are implemented by a person competent and qualified by testing or experience.
- When the construction area has had known traffic control issues, eliminate employee exposures until safety concerns have been dealt with effectively.