

IN THE

ZONE

We would like to send a huge **THANK YOU** to all of our clients, employees, friends and industry colleagues that joined us last month in supporting **National Work Zone Awareness Week!**

Flagger Force joined forces with the Federal Highway Administration, American Roads and Transportation Builders Association, American Traffic Safety Services Association, Washington D.C. Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Transportation, Maryland State Highway Administration, and more at the national kickoff event for this important campaign on April 16th, 2013 in Washington, D.C.

Alice Ward, an employee of Flagger Force that was involved in a work zone incident that nearly took her life just 14 months ago, was an honored guest speaker at the kickoff event. She shared her personal journey from the day of her injury to now, and her message to drivers to slow down in work zones, a reminder to workers to never lose focus on hazards from all directions, and to lawmakers to do their part in passing safety measures to prevent such injuries for workers on the roadways. See Alice's story at FlaggerForce.com/blog.

Additionally, Flagger Force supported the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation earlier this year in the making of a "**Work Zone Smart**" video for teen drivers (see it on our blog), aiming to encourage teens to put away distractions, especially while driving through work zones. Nearly all of the narration for the video was shot on location at Flagger Force's Central Pennsylvania Branch office, with Flagger Force staff providing the SIMULATED work zone setup in the background of the narrator. We were proud to support PennDOT in the making of this important message and at the premiere of the video at Carlisle High School in Carlisle, PA on April 15th, 2013.



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Safe Bet Winners

Thank you to all of our clients and employees that participated in our SafeBet Scratch Off Game, Online Prize Code and Band Together photo contest. We distributed nearly 2,000 Scratch Off cards with safety-related trivia questions and Safety Driven Bands, and awarded hundreds of “Cones are Replaceable, People are Not” t-shirts. **The Grand Prize of a FREE YEAR OF GAS went to Flagger Force Crew Member, John Pero of Hillsborough, NJ!** Congratulations John!

Check out some of the pictures from our Band Together album on Facebook and like us on Facebook if you haven't already. We post new safety messages every week!



Cover up Wear tightly woven, light-colored clothing that blocks out light, but avoid dark colors as they absorb the sun's rays. Try this test to see if the fabric is protective enough: Place your hand between a single layer of the clothing and a light source. If you can see your hand through the fabric, the garment does not offer enough sun protection and you should seek a fabric with a tighter knit.

Use sunscreen A sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 blocks 93% of UV rays, but SPF 50 or higher is best. You want to block both UVA and UVB rays to guard against skin cancer. Be sure to reapply often and don't forget your hands, nose, ears and lips!

Wear UV-blocking safety glasses All styles of Flagger Force safety glasses block 99.9% of UV rays, including our clear and yellow lenses.



We challenge you to **share the message of work zone awareness** with others and remember to wear your Safety Driven band as a daily reminder to work safely and slow down in work zones!

When you get behind the wheel, you hold more than just your own life in your hands. Remember the families of each worker you see on the road and how they hope their loved one makes it home safely from work each day.



Block out UV Rays

For professions that require workers to work outdoors, typically the summer months mean more work, long hours, high temperatures and an overload of sun exposure. You must pay attention to the sun's UV rays; if you do not properly protect yourself, sun exposure can have long-term harmful effects. It is important for outdoor workers to protect themselves by liberally and frequently applying sunscreen, covering up their skin with long sleeved clothing and pants, wearing hats and sunglasses, and seeking shade whenever possible and safe to do so. Here are a few tips to protect your body from the sun's harmful rays.

Wear a neck covering A bandanna or other neck covering fabric will keep your body cool and shielded from the sun. You can even find neck coverings made just for outdoor workers that attach to the band inside your hard hat.

Stay hydrated on the job Drink hydrating fluids (water or sports drinks, NOT caffeinated beverages) before work, during work (with your own personal daily water supply and supplemented as needed by our new truck-based water coolers) and after work. Working outdoors in the heat causes your body to sweat out large quantities of water and salt. If you start to feel dizzy, have strong headaches, or feel nauseous, ask your coworkers for help, then seek shade and sip water gradually. Heat diseases can quickly become very dangerous, and hydration is your best defense against them.

Spotlight on Safety: Working Near Live Wires

It's no shock that working with and around electricity is a real and present daily danger for Flagger Force team members and clients. An estimated 4,000 people are injured and 300 people are killed every year due to an electrical incident on the jobsite. Electrical injuries can affect utility workers and those that protect the work zone.

Awareness of the types of dangers that can exist onsite and proper training of all employees is the first step to prevention. When a downed power line comes in contact with the ground it is likely that electrical current will travel through the ground, also known as "ground gradient." **This is why it is important to establish a safe radius around a downed wire or tree.**

The closer you step to the point where ground contact is made, the stronger the electrical current can be and the higher your chances of injury from "step potential." Step potential occurs when an individual walks near an energized area and electrical current travels up one leg and down and out the other. Step potential is first felt as a tingling sensation in the feet. The severity of step potential increases greatly if the ground is wet or damp.

Touching a wire, or any object or piece of equipment that may be in contact with a wire that is energized is known as "touch potential," defined as an electrical current that travels into your body at one point, and out through another, severely burning everything in its path. Touch potential is typically the most dangerous electrical hazard due to the risk that the electrical current could come in contact with the heart or lungs.

Here are simple precautions and reminders we can all use to prevent electrical injuries:

NEVER assume that a downed wire or a piece of equipment that may be touching a wire is "safe" or not energized.

Keep a safe distance from any downed wire or tree touching a wire.

Assess the site to create and maintain a SAFETY RADIUS around ALL potential hazards to protect both the crew and the general public.

Do NOT exit your vehicle without wearing ALL appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

Be aware of Ground Gradient, Step Potential and Touch Potential dangers.

There are four main types of electrical injuries;

**Electrocution
Electrical shock
Burns
Falls**

Remember working around electricity is a serious job that requires a constant awareness to your surroundings. Even the smallest mistake can be fatal.

Flagger Force requires employees assigned to jobs with downed wires, trees, or poles (occurs most frequently during Storm Service recovery work) to wear and use the following PPE gear:

- **Safety vest**
- **Class E pants**
- **Safety glasses**
- **Hard hat**
- **Appropriate weather gear**
- **2-way radios**

Additional items:

- **Caution tape**
- **Flares**
- **Flood light**



Welcome Aboard!

Office Staff

New

- Kenneth Clark - MD, DC and Northern VA Regional Branch, Operations Specialist
- Keshia LeBlanc - MD, DC and Northern VA Regional Branch, Operations Specialist
- Dave Savage - Eastern PA, NJ & DE Regional Branch, Assistant Branch Manager
- Austin Moren - Business Development Coordinator, Corporate Services
- Ricky Ueberroth - Business Development Coordinator, Corporate Services

Summer Interns

New

- Erin Dubs - Corporate Services, Marketing and Accounting Intern
- Tom Savage - Corporate Services, Accounting Intern
- Julie Schenhals - Corporate Services, Business Generalist Intern
- Ben Pflaumer - Corporate Services, Human Resources Generalist Intern

Corporate Services

New Roles

- Rachel Diver - Human Resources Generalist
- Ashley Emerich - Corporate Receptionist
- Beth Kern - Human Resources and Marketing Generalist

Don't Drive Drowsy!



Over 100,000 crashes and 1,500 fatalities are caused by drowsy driving annually! Don't rely on caffeine, energy drinks, music, smoking, or a rolled-down window to keep you awake. If you're too tired to drive, pull over and take at least a short nap before continuing the journey. Employees can also contact the office if you're too tired to drive safely, and we will arrange a safe ride home for you. Also, if you are offered a work assignment, but do not feel you can safely travel to or complete the job due to fatigue from previous back-to-back work assignments, please let the office know immediately. Most importantly, try to get a good night's rest EVERY night!



Honorable Mention Awarded for Flagger Force's Photography

Recently, Flagger Force participated in a contest by Ragan.com highlighting the best of Employee Communications from top companies around the world. We competed side-by-side with organizations such as Walgreens, GE, Microsoft, PepsiCo, UPS, ChesapeakeEnergy, Disney, GEICO, American Airlines and more. Flagger Force was awarded an Honorable Mention in the category of Photography for the use of our field staff in our imagery across digital, print, office and presentation platforms. The winner of the category was the U.S. Department of Labor, but Flagger Force was proud to be named among these top global companies.

NEW! Paycard Solution

NEW

Electronic Paystubs & Flagger Force Paycards



Coming Summer 2013, Flagger Force will be providing electronic paystubs that can be accessed by every employee through a secure online account via our payroll company. Each employee will receive information in the mail about setting up their personal payroll account login, and they can login to view their most current and past paystubs anytime, 24/7. In addition, for our employees that currently receive live pay checks each week via the mail, you now have new options. Choose between direct deposit, or a NEW Flagger Force paycard that will work just like a debit card, but no bank account is required. This service works like a debit card from any bank - your payroll funds are deposited directly onto the card and can be accessed from almost any ATM for cash, or used as a debit/credit card for any purchases or expenses.

Check out some of the perks of the Flagger Force Paycard:

FRIDAY

Immediate access to your earnings as of 12:01 am each Friday; **no more waiting for your paycheck to arrive in the mail**

BANK

No bank account required and **no more paying check cashing fees** for live checks

Includes **Visa Zero Liability Protection Plan** in case of theft

Over 50,000 Allpoint ATMs available to withdraw cash; **no ATM fee charged by the Paycard**

Deposits to the card are **one-way transactions only**. Flagger Force cannot retrieve the funds back from the card once they are deposited to you

Card is **embossed with employee's name**, just like a debit or credit card

No cost for employees, including one free lost card replacement per year

Free set of checks will be issued with every card to use for paying bills or other expenses as needed

ATM

ONE WAY

DANGER!
Backovers Can Be Deadly

One of the greatest fatality risks on any work site is the movement of construction or utility vehicles, especially in the case of large dump trucks. **Backover incidents account for 50 percent of all fatalities involving construction equipment in work zones**, and they can also result in serious disabling injuries. Both Flagger Force employees and Flagger Force clients should follow safe backing practices to ensure pedestrian and worker safety.

**Safe Backing Practices
to Prevent Injury**

- 1** Designate the area where frequent backing occurs as a “No-Walk, No-Stand” zone.
- 2** Maintain an organized work area to reduce the need for backing if possible.
- 3** Use three-way communication between drivers and workers before backing starts, turn radio volume down and eliminate any other distractions.
- 4** Use a spotter for every back up, and always roll down the driver side window to hear and see spotters clearly.



- 5** Check that the backup alarm is working properly before backing and listen critically for backup alarms despite other work zone noise.
- 6** Use First Move Forward parking so that vehicles can depart in a forward motion into an area free of congestion.
- 7** Always conduct a Circle of Safety walk around the vehicle to identify hazards before driving in any direction.
- 8** Never assume that a vehicle will remain stationary; even if there is no driver, a vehicle can roll if not properly parked or secured.

Remember: Hazards can come from anywhere!



The team of **Bryon Bonser**, **Michael Gonzalez**, **William Bauer**, and **Brandon Rode** worked well together to keep very heavy traffic flowing between two job sites. The crew members did an “exceptional job” and got “the concrete trucks in and out with ease.” Ed Snyder, Safety Representative for T & D Power

Crew Leaders **John Johnson** and **Markus Person** were commended for being “very professional” and doing an “outstanding job.” Jim Cook for Danella Line Services

Bruce Leighton, **Matthew Gardner**, and **Richard Siegman** worked well together and did a “great job.” Jay Harriot, Supervisor with Video Pipe Services

Crew Leader **Delano Haines** and Flagger **Jennifer Kalin** were given special thanks for doing an “outstanding job.” Ken Krepps, Foreman for UGI

Joe Roggio Jr., **Miona White**, and **Ano Hairston** did a great job and were much appreciated for “making sure everything was set up safely” on a BG&E jobsite. Tim Tachetti, BGE Foreman

Advanced Crew Leader **Jeff Evans** was on a UGI Lehigh jobsite for three weeks and “he did a great job.” Nick, Inspector for UGI Lehigh

Joe Vandegrift was recognized for doing a “wonderful job” and requested for the remainder of the KMA project. Sam Hourani for KMA Consulting Engineers, Inc.

The team of **Beth Wilson**, **Deb Gould**, and **Louise Lambert** “worked extremely well together” doing a great job and were “friendly and coordinated” on the job site. Roberto Ortiz, Foreman with Henkles & McCoy

Sarita Grant and **Idris Taliaferro** impressed PECO foreman by “communicating well with the PECO crew” and overall did an “amazing job.” Gino Coleman, Foreman with PECO

Robin Crawford handled a tense situation well by being “polite and kind-hearted” when assisting a frustrated motorist. Reported by Ashley Emerich, Flagger Force, Corporate Receptionist

Demetrius Wilson went above and beyond the line of duty when he assisted a stranded motorist near a job site. Not only did he help the motorist get the car safely to the side of the road but also aided him in getting gas. Demetrius “was cool, calm and collected, a true professional who went out of his way to help.” Rob Rothstein, Motorist

Maxine Swank, **Mike Pierce**, **Mike Devan**, and **Mackenzie Gatto** were praised by Strickler Excavating for having an “exceptional work ethic” and doing an overall good job. Rich Shuker, Foreman for Strickler Excavating

Warehouse Coordinator **Jordan Hodge** came to the aid of fellow employees when a light tower was not working properly on an emergency night job in Maryland. He arrived on site and went above and beyond in keeping the crew safe until a replacement light tower arrived. The entire crew was “very grateful for his dedication to their safety.” Reported by Thomas Edmonston, Flagger Force Advanced Crew Leader





Corporate Headquarters
8170 Adams Drive
Hummelstown, PA 17036
888.312.FLAG
www.FlaggerForce.com



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Action



Percent Savings



Savings per gallon

Drive the speed limit	7 to 14%	\$0.25 to \$0.51 per gal
Avoid sudden, quick starts	5 to 33%	\$0.18 to \$1.19 per gal
Keep your tires properly inflated	3%	\$0.11 per gal
Remove excess weight	1 to 2% for every 100 lb	\$0.04 to \$0.07 per gal
Avoid idling		\$0.01 to \$0.04 per min
Use cruise control whenever possible		
Plan and combine trips to reduce unproductive/excess travel		