

IN THE

ZONE

# BEAR WITH US:

## YOUR ATTENTION SAVES PRECIOUS LIVES.



Each year, Flagger Force is given the important opportunity to speak to the communities we work in about work zone safety. National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW), officially March 23rd - 27th and sponsored by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), leads the charge. ATSSA is a national traffic safety organization dedicated to keeping the roads protected throughout the United States.

This year, Flagger Force participated in several work zone awareness events throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Reaching out to educate our communities about work zone safety not only protects our employees and clients, but the traveling public as well.

In an effort to increase awareness about work zone safety, we developed a public outreach campaign that centered around a "safety" orange teddy bear. The tag attached to the bear read: *"Slow down, avoid driver distractions, and obey work zone signage: your attention saves precious lives."*

The bears were intended to be representative of the important lives that exist in work zones: traffic safety professionals, construction workers, and travelers. We wanted to remind people that every life is special, and that work zones are uniquely dangerous places.

Let's face it, typically drivers don't enjoy dealing with work zones on the road. A well-managed work zone will keep traffic flowing safely. People often forget that work zones indicate improvement to local infrastructure and communities.

The teddy bears, something that always generate warm and friendly feelings, were designed to create new, positive feedback from the public in response to work zones and Flagger Force. We received promises from drivers that they would be more mindful, slow down, and consider the lives at risk when encountering work zones in the future.

Flagger Force donated over 1,000 safety bears to the public in order to increase awareness of this important safety message. As summer weather moves in and work zones increase, our hope is to increase the number of mindful drivers around this season thanks to these fuzzy Flagger Force friends.

## BEAR WITH US

Work zones can be frustrating. But remember: work means things are being improved. Keeping everyone safe in a work zone requires a partnership between you and road safety workers. Our goal is to help foster this community partnership between drivers and safety workers to decrease preventable deaths and injury in work zones.



### SLOW DOWN

The majority of work zone accidents are caused by excessive speed. Make sure you are traveling at the posted work zone speed to be safe and avoid fines too.



### AVOID DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

Work zones can be unpredictable. While a driver should never be distracted, make sure the driver of your vehicle is focused on the road only and not a phone or food.



### OBEY ALL SIGNS

Work zone signs are how we communicate with you while you're driving and we're working. Signs keep you informed of upcoming driving conditions at all times.

**Your attention saves precious lives**



Attached to each "Safety Bear" was a card to encourage safe driving in work zones.



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# National Work Zone Awareness Week

Flagger Force is grateful for the opportunities that National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) provides us each year. NWZAW is sponsored by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) and helps increase safety in work zones throughout the country. This year, Flagger Force participated in events throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

**Here are some of the NWZAW highlights:**

- On March 20th, PennDOT invited Flagger Force to participate in a Work Zone Safety press conference hosted by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation, Leslie S. Richards. This conference took place in Harrisburg. PennDOT data shows that 24 people were killed in work zone crashes in 2014. This number increased by 8% over 2013. Additionally, there were 1,841 crashes in work zones in 2014.
- On March 24th, Flagger Force attended the NWZAW kick-off event in Arlington, Virginia. A very moving tradition of this event is to display the National Work Zone Memorial, which travels across the country honoring lives lost in the traffic control industry due to work zone fatalities. ATSSA spoke about being committed to supporting polices, practices, and laws that will one day reduce work zone deaths to zero.
- On April 2nd, Maryland's State Highway Administration held a press conference and invited Flagger Force field employee Rhonda Outlaw to speak at the podium on behalf of the traffic control professionals in the state of Maryland. As a mother of five, she is keenly aware of what's at stake if someone doesn't return home safely from a day working in the field. In detailing her first-hand work zone stories, ... [story continues on page 3](#) ...

**“These are not just numbers; they are people. Drivers must slow down and be alert to make sure everyone gets home safely at the end of the day.”**

- MD Deputy Director of Transportation, James Ports



Flagger Force employees Ben Johnson and Pamela Whitmer were interviewed by Channel 8 News in Harrisburg, PA to tell firsthand accounts of the risks and fears that traffic control professionals must face each day in the field.



Flagger Force employee, Rhonda Outlaw, speaks at the podium on behalf of traffic control professionals in the state of Maryland.

## FLAGGER FORCE FUNDAMENTALS



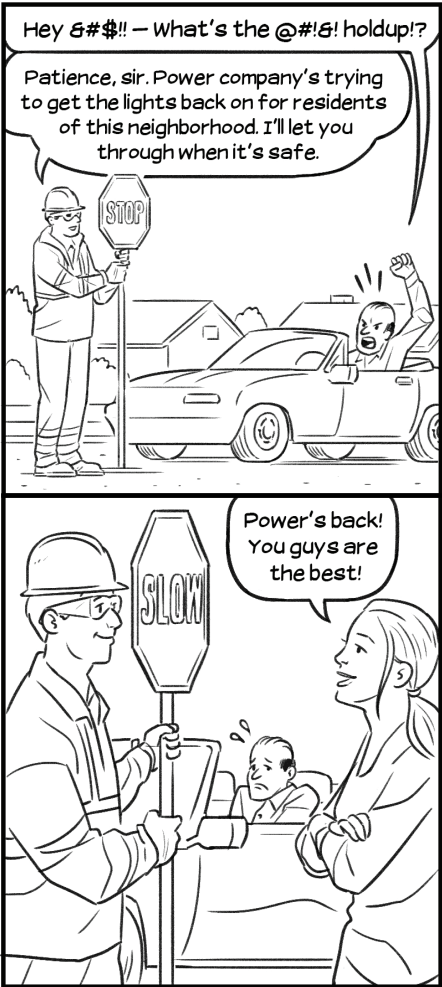
At Flagger Force, **Safety•Driven** is more than just a couple of words – it is the foundation of our work culture. Our job is to ensure that the work zones we control are safe for our employees, clients, drivers, and pedestrians. We support our communities by making things run smoothly as they travel through our work zones while protecting everyone along the way. We continue to be driven to make all decisions from a safety-first standpoint. This approach maintains a strong foundation to work from every day.

Sometimes, it can be challenging to make **Safety•Driven** choices. Many outside forces have the potential to distract us: a job's changing needs, weather conditions, or other outside influences that no one can fully control. However, these same challenges will push us to bring out our best work if we remain focused on the Flagger Force fundamentals.

We encourage our teams to always apply their training to changing job site conditions and never hesitate to speak up about safety concerns with each other and with our clients. If our employees find themselves in an unsafe situation, they can access the Flagger Force support system through their field leadership and operation centers.

We are all responsible for the lives inside work zones, so we must trust our instincts. Because of the Flagger Force commitment to safety, we are able to keep our foundation strong and ensure that we can provide what the people within our communities deserve: the ability to return home safely to their families at the end of each day.

## As The Paddle Turns



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Joel Keefer and Matt Craley at the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building.

# ★★ AN OUTLAW STORY ★★

Rhonda Outlaw joined Flagger Force in 2013 at our Baltimore/Washington branch. Rhonda is widely known for her passion *and* her last name. Every day, she brings tremendous energy and dedication to her work without fail. Flagger Force sat down with Rhonda to learn more about who she is and what makes her such a successful member of our team.

**Flagger Force:** Rhonda, how did you get your start at Flagger Force?

**Rhonda:** I knew one of our former employees, Jesse Burke, who told me about Flagger Force and encouraged me to apply for a job in 2013. I called, interviewed, got hired as a Crew Member, and have never looked back. I love working here.

**Flagger Force:** What is it that you like so much about this job?

**Rhonda:** Controlling traffic is important and challenging work, which keeps things interesting. Every day is different. The relationships I have developed with my coworkers and clients have been great. The pace, risks, and skills required from our work really brings us together. You can really be part of something here.

**Flagger Force:** You have steadily advanced here. Any advice for someone looking to move their career forward at Flagger Force?

**Rhonda:** I always raised my hand for work. If there was a job I took it - even at night, on weekends, or if it was far away. I put my name in to become a Crew Leader, took the classes, and got the position. Soon after, I became an Advanced Crew Leader. I then became an Instructor and a Field Supervisor. Just this month, I was selected to be a Field Superintendent at one of our new expansion branches in Virginia. I have worked hard for a company that has recognized my efforts, and I could not be happier.

**Flagger Force:** Rhonda, I heard you are mother of five. Is that true?

**Rhonda:** Yes! It's true I have a full house: Alesha (25), Theresa (19), Clinton (14), Laura (12), and Jaydah (11). Luckily, my mom is a big help with these guys. My family is a constant reminder for me to be safe on the job - obviously I want to come home to them every day!

**Flagger Force:** Your new job is going to require that you relocate from Maryland to Virginia. How does your family feel about that?

**Rhonda:** My kids are excited, you know - moving sounds like an adventure to them.

**Flagger Force:** Rhonda, can you tell us about a memorable day in the field?

**Rhonda:** Oh yes! We were working on an underground utility job for Consolidated Construction Services (CCS). There were four of us on the job that day and I was checking my crew members' setup by walking along the work zone with the job site on my right side. There was

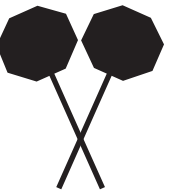
an excavator operating alongside a CCS employee that was helping to place a pipe. The CCS employee tripped and the excavator's tracks ran over his leg - there was a horrifying scream and blood everywhere. I immediately radioed a crew member that was in my truck to call 911. I raced to the aid of the injured CCS employee and made a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. Other CCS employees rushed to the scene, and we all tried keep the poor guy calm. I radioed to my team to hold all traffic until the ambulance arrived. The paramedics were there in minutes and they called in a helicopter to airlift the man out. He lost his leg - but he could have easily lost his life. I still maintain contact with him, and am happy that he is doing better now.

**Flagger Force:** Wow! That's quite a story. Your bravery and quick-thinking was amazing! So Rhonda, what's next?

**Rhonda:** I am currently going through eight weeks of intensive training as an Expansion Team Member. I'll be learning a lot and putting my leadership skills to the test as we keep growing. I'm really looking forward it!



# TRAINING OUT WEST



As our Pittsburgh operations and training facility comes online, we are training new hires to provide services in our Western Pennsylvania territory. On March 19th and 24th-27th, Flagger Force held an intensive work zone immersion classroom and practical sessions for 14 new hires from our Pittsburgh branch.

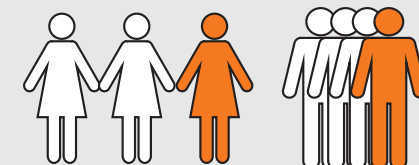
New crew members were instructed through the Flagger Force Academy. In addition, our mentorship program further initiated the new team members' training. We continually strive to hire individuals suited for the unique demands of performing traffic control within the many different conditions that can be presented in the field. This is just the first of many exciting company opportunities coming through our new expansion markets.



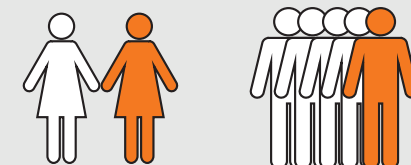
Left to right - Joe Gibbons, Tracey Coulter, Tyranee Simon, Josh Shirley, Chasidy Thomas, Chris Benyacko, David Weaver, Tyler Orazio, Theresa Weaver, Mike Matheny, Duane Lober, Jared Shepp, Mike Benyacko, and Dave Hyatt. Not pictured - Erik Jasik.

## Employee Assistance Program

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Flagger Force wanted to take the time to remind you of how this ties in with our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Sexual assault and domestic violence impact people every day. The next time you're in a room with 6 people, consider the following statistics, found at [nomore.org](http://nomore.org):



**1/3 WOMEN 1/4 MEN**  
experience violence from their partners within their lifetime.



**1/2 WOMEN 1/5 MEN**  
have experienced some form of sexual violence within their lifetime.



**1/4 GIRLS 1/6 BOYS**  
are sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

### Flagger Force EAP

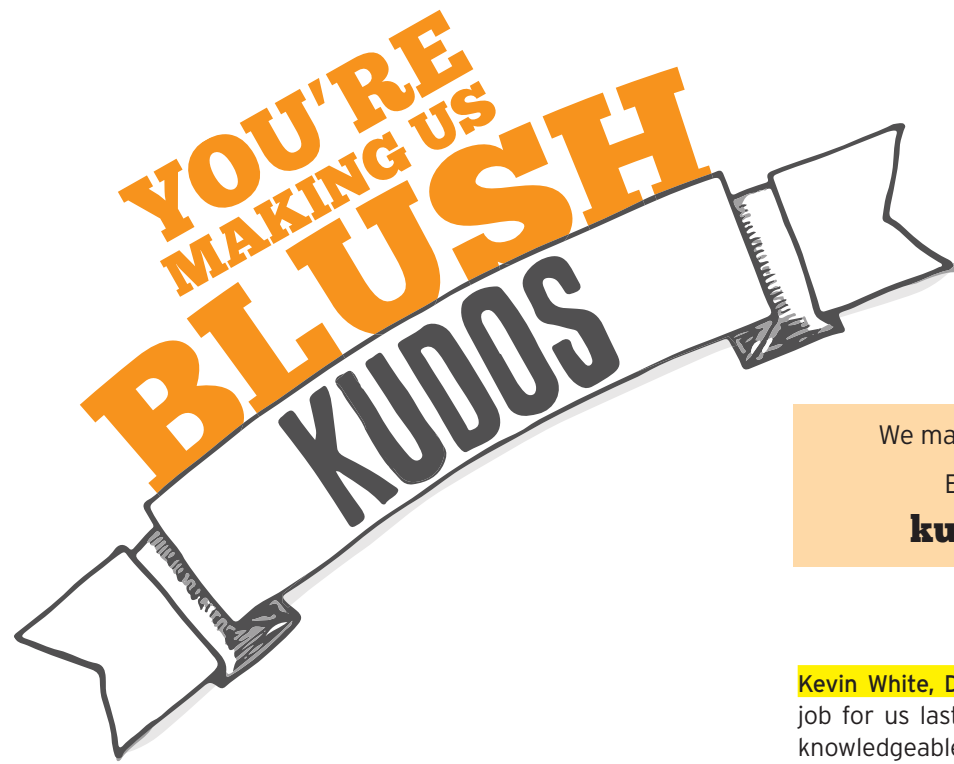
**Call Toll Free:**  
**1-800-450-1327**




**Online:**  
**[www.MagellanHealth.com/member](http://www.MagellanHealth.com/member)**

These numbers prove that more people deal with sexual abuse than you might assume. The important thing to remember is these hardships do not have to be dealt with alone, which is why Flagger Force created the EAP program. EAP is a confidential program that helps resolve issues such as sexual assault and domestic violence. It also helps teach techniques to manage stress, quit tobacco or alcohol use, and much more.

EAP services include telephone consultation available 24/7, referrals to child or elderly care services, online information, webinars and podcasts, and referrals to local community resources for additional assistance. These services are available at **no cost** to you and your family. We value our employees and appreciate the opportunity to support them through any difficult situations. Please feel free to reach out anytime.



	 Send
To...	kudos@flaggerforce.com
Cc...	
Subject	KUDOS!

We make it easy to show your appreciation!

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Kevin White, Darrell Carr, and Douglas Allen did an excellent job for us last week. They were consistently early and very knowledgeable. I am looking forward to working with Flagger Force in the future. - Floyd Heinz (L.G. Hetager Drilling Foreman)

Paul Fury, Jeffrey Motter, Toni Gerver, and Tyler Clancy did a commendable job assisting the fire department in accessing a building fire one block from the job site today. They all kept their composure and handled the situation well. One of the responding police officers expressed his gratitude in saying that, "This crew did a great job of controlling traffic, and allowing the emergency vehicles to respond quickly." - Carlos Castellanos (Field Supervisor)

Kudos to William Testa for a job well done today. He has great work ethic and is very professional while onsite. I was very impressed and pleased with the work William and Flagger Force provided. - Kaylor Jackson (PPL Harrisburg Foreman)

Justina Alcox and Keshia Leblanc are great to work with and do an excellent job when placing our orders. - Taylor Herr (Willbros T&D Services East)

KUDOS to Chad Smith, Hussein Ezzat, and Ricky Ueberroth for working endlessly on March 5th at the Baltimore Office to keep the parking lot and sidewalks clear and safe; AND for cleaning everyone's car off before the three of them left for the day!!! It truly was a daunting task to stay ahead of the snow but they worked at it literally ALL day and did a great job. - Kelly Fugate (Operations Specialist)

Edward Stokarski and Lenard Stephen did a remarkable job today with their set up. My crew and I felt extremely safe and thankful to have them onsite. We will definitely use Flagger Force again in the future. - Jim Scullion (Rapid Response Foreman)

Alpheia Rooks is professional and knows what is needed for setups on the job! - Arnold (Precision Pipeline Foreman)

Kevin White and Calvin Twyman did a tremendous job at reacting quickly to assist our team with an emergency outage today. They reported earlier than scheduled and set up the site swiftly. Thanks to Kevin's leadership and the teamwork of both Kevin and Calvin, we were able to get our crews working on the outage ASAP. My team and I greatly appreciate the quick reaction and great service. - Todd Gohn (PPL Foreman)

I would like to give Joshua Holmes and James Howell a 5 star rating today. They worked long hours in the rain without any complaints. I felt safe knowing I could rely on guys like that. - Tim Stevens (Stevens Excavating)

I just want to recognize how helpful Anthony Street was today. I called him to replace another crew member who was experiencing a family emergency and Anthony did not hesitate when he got the call. He was willing to go even though he was no longer on first call, and wasted no time getting to the job. I was impressed with his strong desire to work. He helped both his coworker and the company. Great job Anthony! - Lauren Sheehan (Operations Specialist)

The crew of Delica Moore and Margarita Castillo did an excellent job today setting up the job site and communicating to keep our PPL crew and themselves safe on busy route 212. Thank you! - Mike Ronemuss (PPL Foreman)

Kevin White did a fantastic job today! He and his crew were safe and on-point! - Brain Kehoe (Keystone Clearwater Solutions)

The King of Prussia operations team does a great job; I placed my order late last night and a crew was on the job and ready to go first thing in the morning. Thank you! - Ross Reynolds (Kehoe Construction Foreman)

I want to make it known that Damon Tull, Chris Plute, Nicholas Resto, Andrew Conway, and Joe Vandegrift did an excellent job for us out at the Wilmington project the past couple of nights. They are hardworking, and more than helpful to our crew to get the job done efficiently and safely as a team. Thank you to this crew! - Brian Lawn (Allan A. Myers Project Engineer)

James Jolly, Floyd Dashiell, and Amirah Muhammad did an outstanding job for us today. Because of the professionalism of this crew, the next time we are in town doing work we will definitely be using Flagger Force's services again. - Dennis McCullough (Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor Foreman)

Brittany Grothey was an absolute joy to work with today. It is nice to talk to someone who is pleasant and has answers to everything I ask! She is a true asset to your team! - John Summers (Lester R Summers Co-Owner)

Last week Clinton Cotton and Anthony Fisher were always on time and did their job very well. These two flaggers never let us down and work very hard and safely. - Rick Mullen (Verizon Foreman)

Astaim Bagely, Karen Leake, Bradley Stoudt, Kevin Woooley, and Crystal Pezok worked great as a team and did an excellent job today. - Amanda Sassaman (PennDOT Inspector)

Stacey Korff was very pleasant, knowledgeable, and made scheduling easy! - Bill Conrad (Signal Service General Manager)

Daniel Walker, Joseph Ballard, and Angelo Archie came prepared to work. They had all the proper PPE gear on, and were ready to go. They were a great crew and did a good job. - BGE Foreman

Scott Richwine, Lorne Koons, James Smith, Kyle Ramp, Mike Rocco, and Bruce Walter performed an outstanding operation today. Their efforts met our needs and kept traffic running smoothly, which increased productivity and led to a safer working environment. My crew and I are very appreciative of all their hard work. - Terry Titus (Allegheny Contracting Foreman)

John Mitchell, Leroy Scott III, Esther Bryant, and Terrell Braxton really did a great job today. I was very impressed by the crew's professionalism and service. I also want to say that every time I call in to Flagger Force I receive excellent service from the operations team in Baltimore. - John Grummer (BGE Foreman)

An OSHA inspector stopped by the worksite today of Keith Cunningham, Herman Black, Michelle Mack, and David Rudolph and said they did a great job performing a PATA 125 on a busy section of State Route 11. - Rusty Miller (Flagger Force, Field Supervisor)

Briana Edmund and Amirah Muhammad have been on our job all week and they are doing a great job at keeping traffic flowing smoothly. - PECO Foreman

I was extremely happy with my crew of Luke Anspach, Elwood Wetzel, and Marcus Taylor. They did an exceptional job and I look forward to using Flagger Force in the future. I also appreciate all the help that Field Supervisor Allen Hamm provided in the planning process of this job. - Chris Kahl (A.H. Moyer Inc. Foreman)

Mark Womack and Christopher Stone are fabulous Flagmen. They coordinated and communicated with each other very well today. I greatly appreciate all of their hard work! - Donnie Hoffert (Brubacher Excavating Project Manager)

I would like to give Doug Allen and Vernon Matthews Kudos for their great attitudes today. I drove through their work zone on my way to work this morning and noticed Doug and Vernon. They were smiling and extremely friendly to motorists moving through their work zone. I appreciated their positivity and kindness, and I am sure other people did too. - Lauren Sheehan (Operation Specialist)

Josh Holmes and Nicholas Resto did a spectacular job today! All the crews I've had have done very well, and everyone within Flagger Force has been great to work with. - Martin Lapalombara (Verizon Foreman)

Lori Worthington and Jamie Kennedy were both very professional today. They explained the job set up to us and made sure everyone was safe. - Ryan Frank (Morrison Excavating Foreman)

Debbie Minall always delivers our invoices as quickly as possible and this is very helpful to our internal processing. Thank you Debbie for all your help! - Jackie Harward (Willbros T&D Services East Accounts Receivable)



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# FREE SHIPPING WEEK! May 18th to May 24th

Flagger Force is excited to announce that we are offering a free shipping week for the online gear store. From May 18th to May 24th, items purchased on the online gear store will be eligible for free shipping. If you purchase an item that is out of stock during this week, your item will still receive free shipping status once it is re-stocked.

We also would like to note that the store is now offering retroreflective items and we plan to have this assortment grow throughout the year. To access the online store, go to **FlaggerForce.com** and click on the **Gear Store** tab.