



# *SAFETY ALERT # 12*



*Week of May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

*In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.*

## **What Happened**

In two separate incidents one worker was killed and the other seriously injured, one in Oakland County and the other in Washtenaw. They each involved heavy highway construction but have universal application. The 34 year old worker killed in Washtenaw County was working on a road project when, at around 11:00 pm he stepped beyond the barrels and was struck by a passing motorist. The second worker, who was seriously injured requiring immediate back surgery, was escorting an excavator in traffic using a stop/slow paddle. He had stopped traffic when in impatient motorist pulled out of line, roared past the stopped vehicles and struck the worker. The driver, who has a history of violent behavior, was apprehended shortly after the incident and will be prosecuted.

It's sad to say and I do this with all due respect for the victim but this first accident *appears* to be a case where he just took his mind off what he was doing for a moment. We work in a hazardous environment, whether it be on a roof, on scaffolding, in a trench or in a confined space the most important safety tool we bring to work everyday is our brain. When we loose sight of what we are doing all bets are off.

The second incident points to the hazards of working around people. We can be very unpredictable animals at times. It's tough to say how the work crew could have avoided this one. The blame clearly lies on the driver but it doesn't stop us from taking a closer look at our operations to see if there's anything we can do to stay out of harms way.

## **Applicable Standards** –

Road work and Temporary Traffic Control Zones are covered pretty much by two standards:  
MIOSHA Part 22 – Signals, Signs, Tags and Barricades  
Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Chapters 5 & 6

## **Helpful Websites**

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/CIS\\_WSH\\_part22\\_35541\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/CIS_WSH_part22_35541_7.pdf)  
<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1/pdf-index.htm>

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