



# TECHNICAL UPDATE

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## FLAGGER CERTIFICATION FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE EMPLOYEES

Flaggers are individuals trained to control traffic on construction sites. The Traffic and Safety Engineering Branch, part of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), manages the flagger program in Colorado. To become certified as a flagger, an individual must complete training with an entity certified by the state and pass a proctored test with a score of at least 80%. Flagger certification is valid for two years from the date of certification. After that, flaggers must retake and pass the certification test again.

### CTSI FLAGGER TRAINING

County Road and Bridge employees must be trained in and hold a Flagger Certification to control traffic in county work zones legally. CTSI's Loss Control Team are Certified Proctors for CDOT's Flagger Certification Program and can provide the required training for county employees. The flagger certification course includes the written test. Certification cards are issued to those who score at least 80% on the written test.

### TRAINING IS CRUCIAL

According to the Center for Construction Research and Training, 1,462 construction workers were killed in road construction and maintenance work zones from 2011 to 2022. Most of them were struck by vehicles or mobile equipment, such as dump trucks or paving equipment. Flaggers had the highest risk of being killed, which is why training for these workers is so crucial to protect them and mitigate liability and risk.

If a vehicle accident or any related public injury occurs in a county's roadway work zone due to a non-certified flagger's decision or actions, the county and the CAPP Pool could be placed in a difficult position to defend against potential negligence claims. It also may affect CAPP's ability to successfully assert Governmental Immunity on the county's behalf.



### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR COUNTIES

CTSI highly recommends that all county road and bridge departments maintain their Flagger Certifications to conduct work zone traffic control activities safely and legally. As an alternative, CTSI recommends counties consider sub-contracting work zone traffic control and flagger duties to a qualified and licensed traffic control or other contractor who employs Certified Flaggers staff. Contact any CTSI Loss Control Team member for more information or to schedule a Flagger Certification Class. For more information, contact CTSI at (303) 861-0507.



### Work Zone Fatal Crashes Per Year in Colorado

The numbers come from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

