



The “right-of-way” (ROW) generally refers to streets, sidewalks, utilities, and lands designated for public use. Maintenance of these areas typically involves vegetation control, tree and brush removal, utility locating and repairing, graffiti abatement, litter control, sidewalk repair, and other activities. These activities place you on or near roadways with vehicular traffic. Remember the R.O.A.D. Ready acronym:



Recognize the Hazard

- Workers can be at risk of being struck by distracted drivers, heavy equipment, and mobile equipment.
- When tree trimming, ensure ground personnel are not within the “drop zone.”
- Onlookers, whether crews or the public, are at risk if they are “close in” to the cutting operation area.
- When mowing, dust and debris can limit visibility and the detection of steep slopes or hidden hazards.
- Dust and debris from mowers or tractors can obscure the visibility of motorists who may not see workers.

Observe People, Processes, and Equipment

- Are employees maintaining appropriate separation distance from traffic?
- If employees are near roadways, are motorists warned employees are working ahead?
- Are work vehicles and equipment parked away from the road in a designated area?
- Are employees visible throughout the work activities, especially with high dust or airborne debris?

Assess the Risk Level

- Are employees working alone?
- Can maintenance activities wait until after peak traffic times?
- Will employees be working in the same area that heavy equipment is operating?
- Will employees need to remove debris from the shoulder or roadway?

Determine the Safest Course of Action

- Conduct a pre-job briefing to ensure that all workers are informed of their duties, safety, and of the designated work area.
- All workers within the right-of-way should wear a minimum of an ANSI Class 2 apparel; Class 3 is recommended at night.
- Consider traffic spotters or “lookouts.”
- When feasible, consider creating a temporary traffic control plan that allows for the closure of a lane for extra workspace.
- Use the work vehicle as protection and warning signs whenever possible.
- Find the safest available location to park or unload equipment.

Traffic Control Devices Link

- Texas MUTCD, Temporary Traffic Control <https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/tmutcd/2011-rev-2/6.pdf>

Resources Available:

- Work Zone Safety for Local Governments: TMLIRP Online learning center: <https://www.localgovu.com/tmlirp/>
- TMLIRP Safer in Seconds: Mobile Equipment Pre-Trip Inspections and Mowing Safety Series