



***HOW TO ENSURE
Pedestrian & Worker
Foot-Traffic Safety
ON JOB SITES***

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Introduction

Many industrial work zones are inherently dangerous, not only presenting hazards to personnel, but also to any passersby. In fact, according to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), non-motorists — pedestrians, workers on foot, and cyclists — accounted for roughly 15% of crash fatalities in work zones from 2002 to 2006. To better protect workers and pedestrians in and adjacent to work sites, various guidelines and safety standards have been enacted.



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Pedestrian and Worker Safety Regulations

Along with the FHWA, the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) maintains specific work-site safety guidelines; they've also published an informative Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or MUTCD, which was specifically developed to better protect pedestrians and workers.

The 2009 MUTCD explicitly states that temporary traffic control (TCC) zones must provide safe, adequate walkways for pedestrians in areas where the ordinary flow or movement of traffic is interrupted. Specifically, the MUTCD outlines three key regulations:

1. Pedestrians should not be led into areas of direct conflict with work-site vehicles, equipment, or operations.
2. Pedestrians should not be led into direct conflicts with mainline traffic moving through or around the work site.
3. Pedestrians should be provided with a safe, convenient travel path that replicates as closely as possible the most desirable characteristics of regular sidewalks or footpaths.



Fundamental Principles of Pedestrian Safety

These concepts are fairly self-explanatory, but designing a comprehensive plan for optimal protection requires thorough analysis. When evaluating a work area for ideal safety, flow, and ease-of-use parameters, the following key MUTCD principles should be kept in mind.



Make pedestrian safety an integral, high-priority element of every project, from the planning stage through design and construction.



Inhibit pedestrian movements as little as practical, and plan work zones to reduce exposure to potential hazards.



Guide pedestrians through work sites in a clear, professional, and helpful manner.



Perform routine inspections on all traffic-control devices.



Work with trained personnel who are qualified to make work-zone safety decisions about the selection, placement, and maintenance of traffic-control devices.





Sharing the Responsibility: Tips for Pedestrians to Respect Workplace Safety

Safety, much like a work zone, is not a one-way street: Pedestrians also play a key role in maintaining optimal work-site safety and efficiency. In temporary traffic-control zones, work zones, and other potentially hazardous walking environments, pedestrians should keep the following considerations in mind.

These are bad places to FaceTime. Put down your mobile device, and always be aware of your surroundings. Be aware of designated walking areas and stay within the indicated boundaries.

Use extra caution at blind corners and in busy, high-traffic areas.

Hazardous shortcuts aren't worth it; don't take them.

Handrails are there to help; use them in elevated places, stairwells, and areas requiring extra stability.

Don't jump from platforms, loading docks, or scaffolding.

Be aware of rules and expectations: Learn where the designated personal protection equipment is located, be sure you know whether an area is safe to enter, and obey special safety protocol.

Respect equipment operators: Never distract them, and keep a safe distance near active equipment.

Take the time to look around in parking areas; scan your surroundings to avoid unexpected incidents.

Omega's Wide Spectrum of Safety Products: Three Key Systems to Keep Your Work Environment Safe

The team at Omega has been working to enhance workplace safety since 1987; we offer a complete catalog of industry-leading solutions to help you meet strict safety requirements and provide a safe, comfortable work environment.

Three of our systems, outlined below, are specifically designed to protect pedestrian and worker foot traffic and create a safer workplace.

Guard Rail and Gate Systems

Our guard rail and gate systems offer a range of benefits for hazardous work areas, including:

Quick, easy accessibility as needed

Reliable worker, equipment, and structure protection from collisions or accidental encounters with vehicles and heavy machinery

Prevention of personal injury, damage costs, company downtime, and machine/equipment destruction

Flexibility of use but with the toughness and superior impact strength of a permanent guard rail



Custom Safety Barriers

Omega's customized safety barriers are comprised of a complete system of top-quality rails, posts, guards, and other critical components, all designed to meet the needs of your specific application. All Omega parts are crafted to guarantee optimal compatibility, durability, and performance.

A few of our key barrier components and features are listed below.



Lift-out rails and removable gate brackets

Heavy-duty, high-strength rails with impact-resistant rail-to-post connections

Structural mounting posts designed to take the impact of vehicle collisions



Optional wrap-around flairs and corner gaps

Included vinyl stripping and post caps for complete assembly

Angle brackets and inside-corner brackets

Modular handrails with infinite configuration options

Built to meet OSHA fall protection requirements, our handrails and pedestrian swing gates allow for explicit distinction between pedestrian walkways and mobile-traffic lanes. We also ship these solutions knocked-down, allowing for significant savings on shipping costs as well as more reliable part-damage prevention.

Roll-Up Fence (RUF)

Omega's roll-up fence serves as a reliable safety solution for many construction and public works applications, as well as events requiring temporary barricading that combines optimal safety with ease of setup. The only full-height barrier on today's market designed specifically for use with a standard-style delineator post, the RUF offers many safety benefits, a few of which are listed below.

RUF helps to create clear exclusion zones, keeping pedestrians aware of repair areas, construction zones, open trenches, overhead dangers, uneven ground, impassable sidewalks, elevation shifts, and temporary-event or incident-based hazards.

Bright and easy to see, RUF directs visitors away from hazardous or sensitive areas.

Lightweight and compact, RUF allows for quick setup and speedy installation, making it an excellent solution for events and festivals.

RUF stores and transports in a fraction of the space needed by traditional pedestrian barriers.



Custom Safety Solutions From Omega

Whether your site requires a full custom safety barrier system or a quick-install roll-up fence the team at Omega can help you create a safer, more efficient work environment.



To discuss how our safety solutions can help reduce the risk of accidents on your work site, reach out to the team today; our experts are on hand to answer any questions you may have. Or, to learn more about the RUF, in particular, download our new [product brochure.>>](#)

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By implementing several simple steps — such as guardrail installation and stairway securing — manufacturers can drastically reduce the risk of fatal accidents in their facilities. For three decades, OMEGA Industrial Products has designed, manufactured, and supplied a variety of custom rails, guards, and shields to allow for optimal worker safety and superior productivity.

We also have a nationwide dealer network.

Omega Industrial Products can help you create a safer workplace, reduce employee injuries, and improve productivity. We help prevent accidents and damage caused by moving forklifts. And, we protect your most valuable assets — people and equipment — with products that are proven in-the-field. Omega products are used by the leading companies, government agencies, and institutions throughout the world.

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