



KENTUCKY
AGC Self Insurers' Fund

High Visibility and Night Operations

Why it matters Darkness, dust, rain, and moving equipment make it harder to recognize workers, judge distances, and see hazards. Before quarry, paving, hauling, or maintenance work begins, provide lighting that lets crews see the task and lets drivers recognize people. High-visibility clothing supports these controls; it does not eliminate blind spots or replace separation from traffic.

Plan the lighting before the shift

- Map the work. Identify work stations, equipment crossings, haul routes, loading and dumping areas, walkways, stairs, edges, and emergency exits. Include flagger stations and changing work fronts.
- Provide usable coverage. Use area lighting plus task lighting where needed. Overlap coverage to reduce deep shadows around trucks, loaders, pavers, and conveyors. Headlights and personal lamps alone may leave critical areas dark.
- Verify and maintain. Assign someone to inspect lighting before work and after equipment moves or conditions change. Use a light meter where specified; meet applicable OSHA or MSHA requirements and project specifications. Plan backup lighting and a safe response to power loss.
- Set up safely. Place light towers on stable ground, secure them as directed by the manufacturer, maintain power-line clearances, and protect cords from traffic, water, and trip hazards. Keep generators away from enclosed spaces and air intakes.

Control glare and hidden hazards

- Aim light at the task. Elevate and angle fixtures downward; use shielding when needed. Keep beams out of drivers' and operators' eyes and avoid glare from wet pavement, mirrors, and reflective surfaces.
- Check every viewpoint. After dark, inspect from worker positions and equipment cabs. For roadway work, arrange a safe drive-through from each approach to check glare, shadows, signs, and worker visibility. Recheck as the work moves.
- Respond to poor visibility. Clean lights, windows, and mirrors. Adjust lighting for dust, fog, or rain; adding brightness can worsen glare. Stop affected work if people, travel paths, or hazards cannot be seen clearly.

Select and care for high visibility PPE

- Use the right garment. Wear employer-selected ANSI/ISEA 107 apparel appropriate to the exposure and site requirements. Roadway work typically calls for Type R Class 2 or 3; Class 3 is recommended for nighttime flaggers. Plain bright clothing is not a substitute for compliant apparel.
- Keep reflective material visible. Wear garments correctly fastened over outer layers. Keep front, back, and side visibility unobstructed. Replace apparel when dirt, fading, damage, or worn reflective material reduces visibility; follow laundering instructions.
- Complete the protection. Use required head, eye, foot, hearing, and other task-specific protection. Choose clear safety lenses for low-light work unless the task requires a different filter. Secure loose clothing around machinery. Personal lights supplement the lighting plan.

Before starting work

Confirm lighting and PPE, designated walking routes, equipment exclusion zones, radio or hand signals, and emergency procedures. Obtain operator acknowledgment before approaching equipment; stay out of blind spots and use designated spotters when needed. Report failed lights, glare, and loss of visibility immediately.

References: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.56; MSHA 30 CFR 56.17001; FHWA MUTCD Part 6, Sections 6C.05 and 6M.08. Apply the requirements governing your operation and project.