



KENTUCKY
AGC Self Insurers' Fund

Signs Barricades and Temporary Traffic Control Devices

Why it matters Drivers and equipment operators need clear directions before reaching a hazard. Missing signs, displaced drums, and damaged barricades can direct traffic into workers, excavations, or equipment paths. In highway work, quarry access areas, and maintenance operations, correct placement and ongoing inspection are essential.

Plan Before Setting Up

- Follow the traffic control plan. Use the approved layout and applicable agency or project requirements. Have a trained, designated person oversee placement, inspections, and needed changes.
- Match the conditions. Account for speeds, curves, hills, intersections, truck entrances, pedestrians, and nighttime visibility. Sign spacing, taper lengths, and device spacing must fit the operation.
- Protect the setup crew. Establish safe installation and removal procedures, including required high-visibility PPE, communications, and protective vehicles. Never enter traffic to move a device without appropriate protection.

Place Devices for Clear Guidance

- Warn before the hazard. Position advance warning signs where drivers can see, read, and respond before a lane shift, closure, or flagger. Check for obstructions such as vegetation, parked trucks, curves, and other signs.
- Define a continuous path. Place cones, drums, and barricades according to the plan so drivers recognize the intended route. Keep devices out of the usable travel lane and maintain required buffer spaces.
- Secure without creating hazards. Use approved supports and ballast according to manufacturer and agency instructions. Do not improvise with concrete blocks, rocks, or other potential impact hazards.
- Understand the limits. Cones, drums, and ordinary barricades guide or restrict movement; they do not provide vehicle-impact protection. Use properly designed barriers or other protective systems when required.
- Keep access usable. Maintain designated pedestrian routes, emergency access, and safe truck entrances. Do not force pedestrians into traffic or equipment operating areas.

Inspect and Maintain Throughout the Shift

- Check the driver's viewpoint. Inspect the full approach and travel path before opening the arrangement to traffic. Repeat after work moves, traffic patterns change, or weather affects visibility.
- Keep devices visible. Clean dirt, dust, and mud from signs and reflective surfaces. Replace faded, damaged, unstable, or inadequately reflective devices. Check nighttime visibility after dark.
- Correct displacement promptly. Check for fallen cones, shifted drums, leaning signs, and damaged barricades after wind, vehicle contact, or equipment movement. Restore them using the established safe procedure.
- Check powered devices. Verify warning lights, arrow boards, and message signs display the correct information and operate properly. Check power supplies and report failures.

When Conditions Change

Stop and reassess if queues extend beyond warning signs, drivers make sudden maneuvers, devices repeatedly move, or the work area is no longer protected. Notify the designated traffic control lead. Remove or cover signs when their messages no longer apply, and remove unnecessary devices when authorized.

References: OSHA 29 CFR 1926.200; FHWA MUTCD Part 6. Follow applicable Kentucky requirements and project specifications.