



Safety Talk



December 2020

High Visibility Clothing

The need to be seen is critical for worker safety. This is especially true for workers who work around moving vehicles or equipment. In an effort to prevent injuries and fatalities from “struck-by” hazards, workers wearing high-visibility clothing help alert vehicle operators to their presence. Tests suggest that reflective material helps others see you up to 3 seconds earlier at night.

There are 3 types of high visibility clothing:

- **Type O (“off-road”)**
 - Example - Workers retrieving shopping carts from parking areas
- **Type R (“roadway”)**
 - Example – Roadway construction and towing operators
- **Type P (“public safety”)**
 - Example - Emergency response personnel (police, fire, ambulance)
- High visibility workwear should be worn at all times where pedestrians and motor vehicles are operating within the same workplace. Keep in mind that anyone walking at night should be wearing high visibility to be seen by motorists.
- It’s important that high visibility workwear is cleaned correctly as improper care can lead to reflective sections not working as well as they could.
- High visibility reflective tape is made from glass beads. When you shine a light on the reflective tape it is the refraction of light by the glass that causes it to be seen.



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