

Maine Department of Labor / Bureau of Labor Standards

Emergency Scene Traffic Control

It has come to our attention that there is confusion concerning to requirements under Title 29 to provide training for emergency scene flaggers. The Maine Department of Labor, under the law, is charged with the approval of Emergency Scene Flagger training programs.

Question: Do we have to use MDOL/BLS's training program?

Answer: No, with nothing in place, we designed a training program based on existing programs in use by Maine and other states fire departments. This specific program is not mandated. It may be used, changed, or a new training program may be submitted for approval.

Question: Do I have to have refresher training?

Answer: No, The training requirement calls for a one time training. There is no required refresher; however it is recommended.

Question: Do I need to set up an Emergency Scene just like MDOL/BLS's training program?

Answer: No, the emergency scene shall be set up to protect the emergency responders working at the scene. This can be done with law enforcement vehicles, public works, Turnpike or DOT vehicles or fire department apparatus.

Question: What is the minimum amount of equipment we need?

Answer: The following is a list of equipment mandated by the BLS adopted MUTCD and adopted OSHA standards.

- Class II vests or turn out gear
- Head Protection (if hazard exists)
- 5 traffic cones downstream and 5 traffic cones upstream, 28" high with two reflective bands, one 6" and the other 4' wide.
- Traffic control paddles, retro reflective (at night) STOP and SLOW and a minimum of 18" in size shaped according to the message. (example- STOP would be a octagon. Flashlight may be used in lieu of paddles at night.

(reference BLS Compliance Document 19-06)

Question: Is Emergency Scene Flagger the same as the DOT work zone flagger training?

Answer: No, while similar, the emergency scene traffic control training is a different program based on the specific needs of emergency responders and has different requirements than the DOT work zone training program.

Question: Do we, under title 29-A, need to follow the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)?

Answer: No, however the Bureau of Labor Standards has adopted the 2000 MUTCD and will be adopting the 2009 shortly.