



# OSHA REGIONAL INSTRUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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**DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** DEN-CPL-04-00-004

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**SUBJECT:** Regional Emphasis Program for Roadway Work Zone Activities

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**REGION:** Denver (DEN)

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**SIGNATURE DATE:** 10/9/2024

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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 10/9/2024

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## ABSTRACT

- Purpose:** This Instruction renews a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) to reduce the incidence of serious injuries and fatalities during roadway work zone construction activities in accordance with OSHA's Operating Plan.
- Scope:** This Instruction applies to work zone construction activities in the jurisdiction of the Federal Area Offices in the Denver Region.
- Reference:** OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Program (LEPs), November 13, 2018.
- Cancellations:** This Instruction cancels previous Regional Instruction CPL 20-02 (04-01), October 1, 2019, Regional Emphasis Program for Roadway Work Zone Activities.
- Expiration Date:** This Instruction expires on 10/9/2029.
- State Impact:** None
- Action Offices:** Billings, Bismarck, Sioux Falls, Denver, and Englewood Area Offices
- Originating Office:** Denver Regional Office
- Contact:** Assistant Regional Administrator for Enforcement Programs  
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By and Under the Authority of:

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Jennifer Rous  
Regional Administrator, Denver Region

## **Executive Summary**

Workers employed in the road construction industry face many hazards that can lead to serious injury, illness, and death. Incidents involving vehicles (both motorists and construction vehicles) are the main cause of occupational fatalities in this industry. Other hazards include fall from height, overexertion and struck by objects other than vehicles.

The intent of this renewed Regional Emphasis Program is to encourage employers to take steps to address these hazards, ensure work sites are evaluated to determine if the employer is following all relevant OSHA requirements, and to help employers correct hazards, thereby reducing potential injuries, illnesses, and death for their workers.

The Denver Region proposes to accomplish this through outreach and enforcement activities. Outreach activities have and will continue to include seminars and training sessions with stakeholders, electronic information sharing activities through newsletters, and cooperative program agreements with industry associations. Enforcement activities will include, but not be limited to, the inspection of road construction work sites with review of traffic control plans and safety and health programs to identify and obtain corrections of workplace hazards at all applicable inspection sites.

## **Significant Changes**

None

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- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this Instruction is to renew a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for the programmed inspections of roadway work zones in accordance with the provisions of OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs).
- II. **Scope:** This Instruction applies to all street and highway work zones within each Area Office's jurisdiction within the Denver Region.
- III. **References:**
  - A. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-164, *Field Operations Manual (FOM)*, April 14, 2020, or the most recent version at the time of the inspection opening conference.
  - B. OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-002, *Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Program (LEPs)*, November 13, 2018.
  - C. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, *Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections*, January 4, 1995.
  - D. November 12, 2014, OSHA Memorandum: Establishments – Targeting Lists for Emphasis Programs.
  - E. Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1926.
  - F. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-170, *Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, July 18, 2024*; or the most recent version at date of inspection opening conference.
  - G. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2017. NOTE: Inspection data generated during the previous five years of this program was used to justify its renewal.
  - H. National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, *Road Construction Hazards Fact Sheet, 2007-2017 Fatal Occupational Injuries at Road Construction Sites*.
- IV. **Cancellation:** This Instruction cancel previous Regional Instruction CPL 20-02 (04-01), October 1, 2019, Regional Emphasis Program for Roadway Work Zone Activities.
- V. **Action Office:** Billings, Bismarck, Sioux Falls, Denver, and Englewood Area Offices.
- VI. **Federal Program Change:** This Instruction cancels Regional Notice 19-02, CPL 04-01, October 1, 2018, Regional Emphasis Program for Roadway Work Zone Activities.

VII. **Significant Changes:** None.

VIII. **Background:** Each year, more workers die in the construction industry than in any other sector. The goal of the REP, through direct intervention, is to both educate employers and employees about work zone hazards and reduce occupational fatalities, injuries, and illness that are occurring in roadway work zones.

The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse reports that highway and street construction workers are at risk of fatal and serious nonfatal injury when working in the vicinity of passing motorists, construction vehicles, and equipment. Each year, hundreds of workers are killed and thousands are injured in the highway and street construction industry. In 2017, one-hundred and thirty-two workers were fatally injured nationwide while performing work zone duties. This is a slight increase from the previous three-year average of one-hundred and thirty. According to current data from the Clearinghouse, thirty-four employees were fatally injured in the Denver Region between 2007 and 2017. In addition to the fatal events described above, serious non-fatal injuries also occur in highway construction due to overexertion, falls, and being struck by other objects. 2017 BLS data showed 68 fatalities occurred in NAICS 237310, Highway, Street and Bridge Construction, relating to work zone activities.

IX. **Inspection Scheduling:**

A. **Selection of Sites for inspection:** Due to the unique and variable conditions associated with roadway construction, each area office will select sites for inspection in a particular manner as set forth below. (Each area office will also, however, select sites for inspection pursuant to paragraph VIII.B. below.)

1. **Denver (DAO) and Englewood (EAO) Offices:** The Area Director will, as resources allow, develop a list of roadway work zone sites within the Area Office's jurisdiction. The list will be developed from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Home Page <http://www.coloradodot.info/> of Scheduled Lane/Road Closures. The Current Condition Page [www.coloradodot.info/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html](http://www.coloradodot.info/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html) provides access to the most recent information about conditions on Colorado's highways, including a "week at a time" schedule of Lane/Road Closures.

When an inspection cycle list is needed the Area Director will determine the number of work sites that will be included in the cycle. The Area Director will then compile a list that includes all the roadway work sites then found on the above DOT lists by quadrant. The compiled list of roadway work zone sites will be reviewed and all sites that are outside the area office's territorial jurisdiction will be deleted.

A random numbers table will then be applied to create a list of work sites in accordance with the November 12, 2014, Memorandum: Establishments-Targeting Lists for Emphasis Programs. The Area Director will then select from the randomized list the number of sites required for the inspection cycle. The selected sites will be scheduled for inspection. All selected sites will be inspected, unless the deletion criterion (described below) applies to a selected site. (The Denver and Englewood Area Offices will also inspect certain additional sites as described in paragraph VIII.B. below.)

2. **Billings, Bismarck, and Sioux Falls Area Offices:** The Billings, Bismarck, and Sioux Falls Area Offices will select worksites for inspection based on the selection method set forth in paragraph VIII.B. below (CSHO observation of a serious hazard in a roadway work zone).

- B. **Sites also to be inspected whenever a serious hazard is observed.** (This is the primary selection method for the Billings, Bismarck, and Sioux Falls Area Offices, and is an additional selection method for all other area offices.) Each Area Office will also select worksites for inspection based on a Compliance Safety and Health Officer's (CSHO's) observation of a serious hazard in a roadway work zone. If, in the normal course of travels, a CSHO observes a serious hazard during work activities in the roadway within the Area Office's jurisdiction, the CSHO will call the Area Office to inform the Area Director or other supervisor of their intent to conduct the inspection.
- C. **Additions:** Additions to all lists generated will be made in accordance with November 12, 2014, OSHA Memorandum Subject: Establishments-Targeting Lists for Emphasis Programs.
- D. **Deletions:** Each area office will maintain a list of sites that are inspected. Before directing an inspection pursuant to section VIII.A, above, the Area Director will determine whether the subject site has had a programmed inspection within the last 90 days. If so, that site will not be the subject of a programmed inspection during the current cycle unless a serious hazard is observed, in which case, an inspection will be authorized. Any work zone site on a current cycle that has not been inspected by the time this notice expires shall be included in the alphabetical list generated the following year, provided this notice is renewed for the following fiscal year and such work zone is still in existence.

## **X. Inspection Procedures:**

- A. Only those CSHO's who have been trained in the recognition and abatement of hazards specific to the roadway work zones will be assigned to lead these inspections.

- B. Designated CSHOs will be provided with and use appropriate PPE, including high visibility vests and amber safety lights.
- XI. **Outreach:** The Area Offices have conducted and will continue to provide outreach on hazards in the highway, street and bridge construction industry. Outreach has been in the form of speeches, training seminars, and newsletters to groups identified by the Compliance Assistance Specialist (CAS) and CSHOs.
- XII. **OIS Coding:** Inspections conducted under this REP will be identified in the OSHA Information System (OIS) as follows:
- A. Current instructions for completing the appropriate inspection classification boxes on the OIS Inspection Form will be followed.
  - B. Inspections which are targeted as a result of this REP will be coded as “WORKZONE” in the *Local Emphasis Program* block and as “Programmed Planned” in the *Initiating Type* block.
  - C. Inspections involving work zone safety issues which are initiated as a result of a complaint, referral by another agency, fatality/catastrophe or other programmed activity will be coded as “WORKZONE” in the *Local Emphasis Program* block, and as the appropriate unprogrammed activity in the *Initiating Type* block.
- XIII. **Program Report:** No later than midway through the life of the program the Area Offices will provide a report of this REP to the Regional Office.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Directorate of Enforcement Programs  
Directorate of Construction Programs  
Regional Office of the Solicitor