



The Institute of Transportation Engineers
Traffic Engineering Council
presents TIPS on



Construction Signs

Why are those orange signs around road construction sites?

Whenever work is done on or near the roadway, drivers are faced with changing and unexpected traffic conditions. These changes need to be conveyed to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians to ensure their safety and protect the workers.

Drivers and pedestrians should take special care to observe signs, signals, pavement markings and flaggers near roadway construction sites. Special traffic control devices (usually a black legend on an orange background) are installed to assist and safely guide and protect motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and workers in a work zone and warn them of unexpected roadway or traffic conditions.

Most traffic control zones are divided into the following areas:

- Advance Warning Area - tells drivers what to expect.

- Transition Area - begins to move traffic from its normal area.
- Buffer Space - provides protection for traffic and workers.
- Work Area
- Termination Area - directs drivers to resume normal driving.



Construction and maintenance warning signs are a special series with the black legend on an orange background. The orange color is used to indicate the temporary nature of the condition and the additional potential hazard of the worksite. Traditionally, work activities have included construction, maintenance, and

utility operations. However, orange color warning signs have application for all work activities within the right of way such as survey crews or temporary weighing stations.

Construction detour routing signs may have a black legend on an orange background. Special information signs relating to the work being done must also have a black message on an orange background.

