

## Road Cuts: Protecting Workers and Motorists

### Safety First – Guidelines for Street and Road Contractors

The following guidelines are recommended for obtaining optimum safety before, during and after road cut construction.

<b>Safety Before Construction</b>	<p>Have a plan-of-action in place regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What type of work will be completed and when it will take place</li> <li>○ What segments (if any) will be subcontracted</li> <li>○ Risk exposures during each phase of the work</li> <li>○ Emergency response plans</li> </ul>
	<p>All work (signs, signals and barricades), including those subcontracted, must comply with the OSHA Standards for the Construction Industry 29 CFR 1926 subpart G-Signs, Signals, and Barricades</p>
	<p>All work being completed must comply with the Department of Transportation and OSHA standards for the particular state in which the work is taking place</p>
	<p>Traffic control procedures that will be in place and the devices that will be used while completing the project should be documented</p>
	<p>All employees that will be working on the project should be properly trained</p>
<b>Safety During Construction</b>	<p>Follow all OSHA standards that apply to the type of work that is being completed</p>
	<p>Conduct on-site inspections of the road conditions regularly</p>
	<p>Implement necessary maintenance procedures</p>
	<p>If the erection or placement of signs, signals and barriers was subcontracted, <b>do not</b> allow employees to move or alter the signs, signals or barriers</p>
	<p>Have a policy in place to keep the public clear of the construction</p>
	<p>Use the “flipping traffic” technique for large scale projects that require traffic flow to continue during the course of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Using barricades, block the half of the street being worked on and have flaggers facilitate traffic through the side of the street that is not being worked on</li> <li>○ Once the work is done and the road has been repaired, “flip” the barricades over to the other side of the street and begin to work on that side</li> </ul>
	<p>Never leave an open cut/hole at the completion of a day of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Barricade the area to restrict traffic from entering the area around the cut</li> <li>○ If traffic is allowed to drive over the cuts at night because of city ordinances or other circumstances, use lime rock or asphalt to fill in</li> </ul>

	the hole until it can be completely repaired at the end of the project
	Avoid driver exposure to uneven lanes, milled edges and pavement/shoulder drop-offs
	Remove snow and ice from the construction zone
	Respond immediately if an accident does occur <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the event that the accident is serious, take photographs of the area and talk to your agency right away</li> <li>○ <b>Do not</b> rely solely on the police investigation</li> </ul>
<b>Safety After Construction</b>	Promptly repair any cuts or holes in the road
	Remove debris and loose gravel from the roadways and shoulder areas
	Routinely check the condition of the repaired road for a reasonable amount of time after completion of the project

By adhering to these guidelines, many injuries and claim costs associated with road cuts may be reduced.

Safety Recommendations: Please take special care and attention to securing any road cuts made by Atlas. If traffic is still going to be allowed to travel over the area where cut, maintain the area to be as smooth for the motorist as possible. If a cut must remain open over night, secure the steel plate and or smooth area with stone prior to leaving. Try to NEVER leave a cut open over a weekend.