

FDOT Newsletter

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Volume 84



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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FDOT Opens First In The Southeast Concrete Testing Facility on U.S. 301

FDOT continues strategic focus on innovative technology to enhance safety and resiliency

Drivers on northbound U.S. 301 will soon play an important role in FDOT's effort to identify the most effective concrete pavement designs throughout the state. The new concrete "test road" is the first of its kind in the southeastern United States: a field laboratory that utilizes live traffic loads to test concrete pavement and base designs.

Pavement testing equipment and monitors are strategically placed along the 4-mile roadway segment, allowing FDOT engineers to monitor pavement conditions in real time under live traffic, including heavy truck traffic. The concrete test road's innovative design will utilize the existing U.S. 301 northbound lanes to divert traffic off the test road when needed, providing engineers full access to the test areas. This concept also allows for new test sections to be constructed without interruption to U.S. 301 traffic. The test road is located just south of County Road 218 to just north of Richard Mosely Road.

"Serving Florida's communities is the heart of FDOT's mission and U.S. 301 concrete test road is an innovative tool to allow us to improve our roads," said **FDOT Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E.** "Using innovative technologies to collect real time data on the efficacy of various types of concrete available to use on Florida's roads allows us to use the most effective materials to create resilient transportation corridors and reliable supply chains while prudently using taxpayer dollars. The more resilient the materials we use, the longer they last, reducing our maintenance costs and construction times, limiting the congestion travelers feel in active work zones."

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4 Steps to Take When a Worker Is Injured on Your Construction Site

The construction industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing labor trades. According to the Center for Construction Research and Training, since 2019, 11.4 million U.S. workers have been employed in construction, a 25% increase from 2011. Amid this growth, the industry has remained one of the most dangerous, and workers are often at higher risk of injuries and deaths due to occupational incidents. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 150,000 injuries on construction work sites annually.

Under Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) law, employers have a responsibility to provide a safe work environment. That includes providing a workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards. Despite best efforts in implementing risk-mitigation and safety protocols, employers must be prepared with an incident procedure should an incident occur on a jobsite. Taking immediate, clear actions can impact the severity and outcome of injuries from a workplace incident. With this in mind, employers should take the lead in implementing safety procedures for injuries on construction sites and should inform all safety site managers and workers of the steps that should be taken.

Below are steps employers should consider following a workplace incident on a construction site:

STEP 1: Keep the injured worker calm and seek immediate medical attention.

First and foremost, it's important to keep the injured worker and all bystanders calm and take steps to control the area. When an incident initially occurs, an injured person may experience feelings of high stress, panic or a wave of emotions such as distress, anger or frustration. It is important that the injured individual and those around them try to remain calm in order to take stock of the surroundings, monitor those injured and help everyone make the best decisions they can in that situation.

If the injury hazard is still present in the area where the incident occurred, remove workers from the area and block it off to prevent other staff or bystanders from entering. Unless they are at immediate risk for further injury, do not move the injured individual until medical personnel arrive on the scene.

Incidents on construction sites may vary in severity, and serious injuries should always be evaluated and treated by a medical professional. While a worker may initially say that they are fine, they may be experiencing a state of shock from the incident, and their injuries may be more severe than they first appear.

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About The FDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on FDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



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