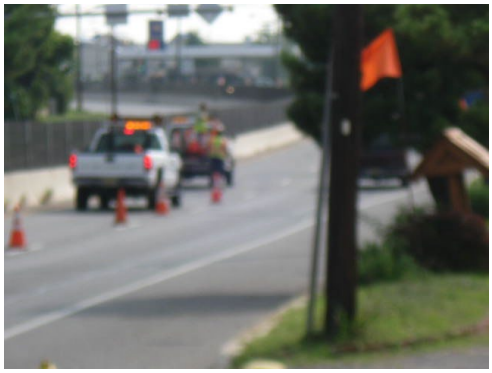
Job Site Observation

Date: **Location: Route 000** **Task: Road Re-Opening**

Crew: Public Works Department

Describe Potential Hazards/Controls

HAZARDS	CONTROLS
• High Speed/High Volume Traffic	• Signs, Cones, Reflective Clothing
• Flying particles	• Safety Glasses
• Noise	• Hearing Protection
• Crush Injuries	• Safety Shoes
• Silica Dust	• Working wet



The job began by placing advance warning signs at proper intervals. After signage was in place, the crew began installing cones.

Cone spacing was good and according to MUTCD guidelines, in fact, spacing was closer than required for this roadway. Closer spacing reduces the possibility of vehicles intruding into the work zone.

The work vehicles were positioned behind the cones, with a blocking vehicle between the Backhoe and worksite. The Vehicle was equipped with amber lights.

Handwork was used to remove the cold patch from around the plates. Proper techniques for shovel work were observed, however, this required working near the cones. Although a spotter was used to warn traffic away from the lane and alert the laborer if needed, I was disappointed that no flags or paddles were available for use. The individual was wearing a lime green shirt, however, in this situation, a worker in a high-volume High-speed traffic location should be wearing a level II minimum retro-reflective vest and be equipped with stop slow paddles to control traffic. Since the location was at a traffic light. A sworn police officer should have been used to direct traffic.

The excavation was covered with a road plate which was held in place by large spikes. Efforts to remove the spikes with hand tools were unsuccessful. The decision was made to use the backhoe to lift the plate allowing the spikes to be removed. The operator waited until workers were clear of the area before using the bucket to lift the plate. Again the individual ensuring that traffic did not intrude was not equipped with a traffic control device.


A cutoff saw was used to square the opening in the asphalt. This operation was completed without the use of water or any wetting method. Dry cutting of certain materials exposes workers to silica. This saw was equipped to be used with a water supply. According to workers, the water supply was not available for this job. The level of dust generated exceeded recommended PELs. (Permissible Exposure Limits)


Backfilling required the use of a “Jumping Jack” compactor. The worker was properly attired in the high visibility safety vest, Safety Glasses, hearing protection, and Work gloves with leather palms & fingers cloth uppers. The operator was cautious to keep his feet from the moving compactor and was familiar with the operation of the tool.

After the fill material was brought to the proper level work was delayed until the arrival of the concrete which would finish the closure.

At this point due to the estimated time of arrival for the concrete, I suspended this observation.

Remarks:

Several items noted during this observation should be addressed.

- Individuals directing traffic should be equipped with flags during emergencies or Stop/Slow paddles for short duration control.
- High volume High traffic requires a minimum Type III retro-reflective apparel according to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, adopted by NJ as the standard for temporary traffic control.
- No Person other than a sworn Police officer may direct traffic through a Traffic Light or Stop Sign.
- Dry Cutting of concrete and other masonry materials is not allowed according to OSHA/PEOSH. Efforts should be made to eliminate this practice either through the use of a water supply for the saw or by spraying water on the surface with a portable sprayer.

Your Name
Your Department

Narrative Format JSO Instructions – Revised 9-10-19

Consider the task to be observed:

Complete Date, Time, Crew information, etc.

Begin by identifying all known and potential hazards associated with the job.
List the kind of control(s) used to reduce or eliminate the hazard, i.e., Engineering control, Administrative control or Personal Protective Equipment (see below for leaf collection). **Note:** Identified controls are not necessarily always used.

Hazards	Controls
• **Traffic – Struck By, Mobile Work Zone**	• **Engineering Control - Amber Lights, PPE - Hi-Visibility Clothing**
• **Flying Particles**	• **PPE - Safety Glasses, Gloves, Long Pants/Sleeves**
• **Noise**	• **PPE - Hearing Protection**
• **Back Injury, Strains & Sprains**	• **Engineering control – Gas-powered blowers**
• **Breathing Hazard**	• **PPE - Dust Mask**
• **Fatigue**	• **Safe Work Practice – Speed, the substitution of hand tools**

Take several pictures to document conditions or work practices.

- Describe the tasks being performed. Include information on how the controls are being used.
- Describe any deficiencies in procedure or controls.
- Describe good behavior.
- Describe conditions, i.e., weather, lighting conditions, heat, cold, etc.

Include personal observations on procedures being employed.

In short, the JSO should tell the story of the task at hand. Who, what, when, where, and how of the task being performed.

Done correctly, the JSO becomes an effective tool which can be utilized in several areas.

- The JSO will first give the observer an insight as to how the jobs are being performed regarding safety and adherence to procedure.
- It will help identify areas of need, such as training, equipment, or safe work practices.
- It satisfies the requirements of a hazard assessment as required by PEOSH.

- Observations can be used to describe a workers position to a physician when trying to offer transitional duty or determine fitness for duty.
- It can be used as material for a Tool Box Talk to review the results.
- Improve morale by pointing out what is good as well as what is deficient.