

Temporary Traffic Control



An introduction
to SafetreeTM

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Temporary Traffic Control

Temporary traffic control road signs must be used on private roads where forestry operations are underway to tell drivers they are entering a hazardous area.

Signs must be used at all site access points to:

- ▶ warn road users of a hazardous forestry operation or incident ahead
- ▶ tell them how they should act as they approach the site – e.g. stop, enter only when given the okay, proceed with caution.

Obey the rules

All traffic control measures, including signage, must be in accordance with:

- ▶ the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Control (COPTTM), or
- ▶ rules put in place by whoever owns or controls the road (these must also comply with NZTA rules) or
- ▶ the Best Practice Guidelines for Temporary Traffic Control for private roads.

Types of signs

There are **three types of signs for temporary traffic control** – you need to understand which sign to use for which situation.

- ▶ **Initial, advance warning** – to signal temporary or permanent hazards ahead
- ▶ **Direction and protection signs** – compulsory to use at unmanned road closures, along with tape or a barrier to stop vehicles continuing without permission
- ▶ **Information** – more in-depth information about site hazards.

Banners, tapes and barriers

These must be used along with signage on all unmanned temporary road closures to stop unauthorised vehicles driving around the warning signs and entering without permission.

They must:

- ▶ be at least 1-1.5m high, be a minimum 100mm wide and include something to make them easily visible
- ▶ be immediately behind the STOP (direction and protection) sign.

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Sign layout

The distance from the work or hazard site where the signage needs to be placed will vary according to the road conditions and allowed traveling speed. As a rule of thumb, allow one metre for every kilometre-per-hour the vehicles are likely to travel, but increase the distance if:

- ▶ drivers might need more warning (likely to be driving fast and/or in wet conditions)
- ▶ the hazardous area is around a blind corner
- ▶ there's reduced visibility – smoke, dust, fog, rain, etc.

Document any traffic management

Signage on the approach to the skid or landing areas doesn't usually need to be documented. But if you're using traffic control measures to manage a hazard from a forestry operation, record what you've done on a temporary traffic management plan.

This shows you've managed the road hazards effectively and complied with best practice. Your record can also be used to help improve future traffic control measures or decisions.

Secure signage and remove when unnecessary

Make sure all signs are secured properly so they won't fall or be blown down. Also, remove them or cover them up at the end of the day if they're no longer needed.

Get it right

It's your responsibility to have the right signs in the right place to manage hazards involved in your operation. Check the appropriate code or guidelines.

Note: This resource is intended for use on private forestry roads only, not public roads or State Highways. For temporary traffic control procedures on those roads, contact the local council or the New Zealand Transport Authority.

For more information about Temporary Traffic Control on private roads: BPG for Temporary Traffic Control; ACOP Section 2.12.