



# JOBSITE SAFETY TALK

**"ON-SITE TRAINING YIELDS A SAFE, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE"**



21-14

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## BLINDED BY THE LIGHT!

By, Mark Potnick

What's the deal with portable light plants? Are they really adjustable, or are they permanently fixed at just the right angle to blind passing motorists?

Unfortunately, this is no laughing matter for contractors or motorists who travel through nighttime projects. Recently, I've experienced three night jobs on which at least one portable light plant blinded me and other motorists passing through the job. The last one was so bad that I stopped and discussed the situation with the job foreman. He and the crew were totally unaware that the light was more of a hazard to passing traffic than it was an aid to the crew. No one had bothered to check the angle of the light before it was raised into position.

As a refresher, let's see what it says about floodlights in Part 6, Section 6F.82 of ODOT's Temporary Traffic Control Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD):

### Support:

*Utility, maintenance, or construction activities on highways are frequently conducted during nighttime periods when motor vehicle traffic volumes are lower. Large construction projects are sometimes operated on a double-shift basis requiring night work.*

### Guidance:

*When nighttime work is being performed, floodlights should be used to illuminate the work area, flagger stations, equipment crossings, and other areas.*

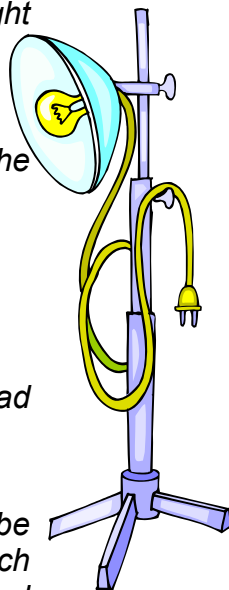
### Standard:

***Except in emergency situations, flagger stations shall be illuminated at night.***

*Floodlighting shall not produce a disabling glare condition for approaching road users.*

### Guidance:

*The adequacy of the floodlight placement and elimination of potential glare should be determined by driving through and observing the floodlighted area from each direction on all approaching roadways after the initial floodlight setup, at night, and periodically.*



Be advised that OSHA has adopted the MUTCD as its standard for traffic control. The next time that guy from OCA (me) stops on your nighttime project and warns you about glaring floodlights, consider yourself lucky... instead, it could be an OSHA inspector with a citation in his/her hand.

**Date**

**Company Name**

**Project #/Name**

**Meeting Location**

**Person Conducting Meeting**

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**Items Discussed:**

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**Problem Areas or Concerns:**

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**Attendees:**

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**Comments:**