Railroad Flagging Policy

FOR WORK CONDUCTED WITHIN
THE ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION’S RIGHT-OF-WAY (ARRC ROW) AND OTHER ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF RAILROAD TRACKS

Situational Requirements:

Railroad flag protection (flagging) **is required** whenever **people, vehicles, or equipment are within 20’ of the tracks**. Flagging **is also required** if equipment can reach within 20’ of the tracks. Some examples of other situations which may require flagging:

- Surveying within 20’ of the tracks
- Boring under the tracks
- Working over the tracks (on a bridge or with overhead utility lines)
- Working within 20’ of any railroad facilities, including signal facilities.
- Movement of off-road or oversized/overweight loads over at-grade crossings
- Operating tracked equipment over at-grade crossings
- Using a sweeper truck on at-grade crossings
- Crossing tracks on foot with limited sight distance

Railroad flagging personnel are provided to protect ARRC personnel, equipment, passengers, and facilities from the work being performed, and to provide protection to contractors working within ARRC ROW from ARRC operations. They are **NOT** inspectors of the work being performed. ARRC reserves the right to require construction observation for work within ARRC ROW at an additional cost to the permittee. Flaggers will provide daily job briefings and ensure at each briefing that all contractor activities planned for that day will comply with the most current version of the Alaska Railroad Safety Operating Manual.

A single flagger may cover a limited length of track, depending on track curves, sight lines, radio contact, and other factors. The ARRC will determine in its discretion flagging limits per location and how many flaggers are necessary to cover the required work area.

The minimum flag protection time for which a permittee shall be responsible is 8 hours per day, per flagger, regardless of the actual time during each day that flagging is required. No single flagger may work more than 12 hours in a given day, 60 hours in a given week, or 6 days in a row.

Flagging hours will typically exceed the contractor’s onsite work hours. Additional time is required for flaggers to travel to and from the work site, to obtain track authority, and to set up and tear down equipment, each of which are included in the time allotted for flag protection. On average, a flagger will work 2-3 hours per day in addition to the onsite flagging time.

Scheduling:

Flagging requests must be submitted **10 business days** prior to the start of work. ARRC will make a reasonable effort to provide flagging to accommodate contractors’ schedules. However, staffing is limited during certain times of the year and personnel may not be available at specific times.

To avoid flagging charges, cancellations of flagging requests must be made at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled start of flagging operations. Any cancellations received with less than 72 hours’ notice are subject to payment of the minimum daily rate then in effect, as determined by ARRC, for the number of flaggers assigned to the project.

Flag Protection Cost:

Flagging will be billed out at a flat hourly rate of $150.00 per flagger.