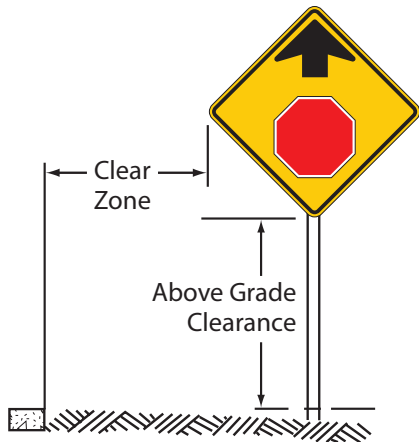


# Breakaway Supports & Clear Zones



## Breakaway Sign Supports

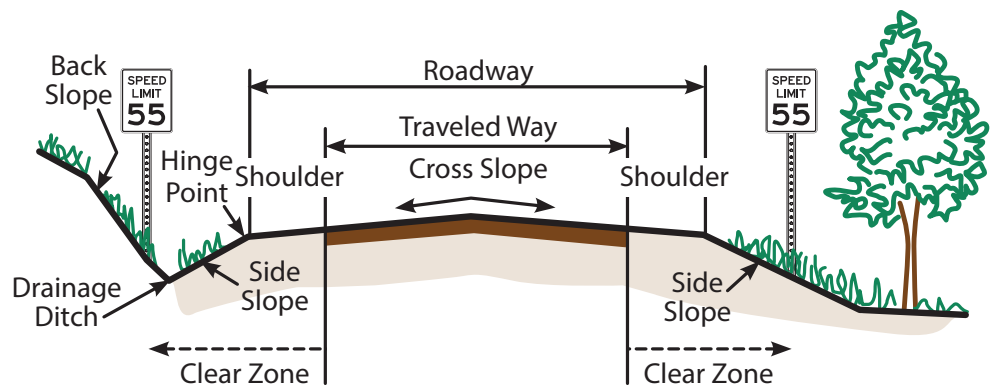
The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is the national standard used for all public and private roads open to public travel, states that roadside sign supports in the clear zone shall be breakaway, yielding, or shielded.

- ◆ “Breakaway” requirements apply to all roads, whether publicly or privately owned.
- ◆ “Breakaway” is often used as an umbrella term to describe crash tested sign supports that break or bend upon impact.
- ◆ Rigid objects close to a roadway can become deadly hazards when struck by a vehicle that strays off the pavement.
- ◆ All non-breakaway sign supports and mailbox supports within the clear zone of roads posted at 50 MPH or greater should immediately be replaced with approved breakaway systems.
- ◆ On roads posted at speeds 45 mph or lower, the breakaway criterion may be met when upgrading sign retroreflectivity or by 2019, whichever comes first.

## Did You Know?

Sign mounting heights from the ground to the bottom of a sign (Above Grade Clearance) are:

- ◆ 7 feet: urban areas
- ◆ 5 feet: rural areas
- ◆ 4 feet: object markers and chevron signs



## Clear Zone

A clear zone is defined as the total roadside border area, starting at the edge of the traveled way, that is available for an errant driver to stop or regain control of a vehicle. This area may consist of a shoulder, a recoverable slope, a nonrecoverable slope, and/or a clear run-out area.

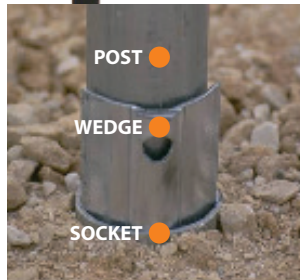
- ◆ Recommended clear zone distances are based on speed, average daily traffic, and roadside terrain such as slope and curvature.
- ◆ Lower clear zone distances consist of flat, level terrain, local roads/streets with lower speeds and lower average daily traffic.
- ◆ Higher clear zone distances consist of steeper roadside slopes, higher speeds and higher average daily traffic.
- ◆ Visit the Federal Highway Administration website, and utilize the AASHTO Roadside Design Guide and Manual for Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for more detailed guidance in developing your agency’s individual standards and policies.

Speed	Clear Zone Distance Range
40 mph or less	10 - 16 feet
45 - 50 mph	10 - 28 feet
55 mph	10 - 32 feet
60 mph	12 - 44 feet
65 - 70 mph	12 - 46 feet



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## Did You Know?

Optional powder paint colors are available for posts and hardware.



## U-Channel Posts

- ◆ Most popular and widely used post system.
- ◆ Manufactured using recycled railroad tracks.
- ◆ Green posts are typically used in rural areas.
- ◆ Galvanized posts are more popular for use in urban areas.

### Safety Splice Breakaway System

- ◆ A quick and simple design.
- ◆ NCHRP-350 Crashworthy.

## Round Posts

- ◆ Commonly used for a decorative look.
- ◆ Good for small sign installation when used with an Anchor Plate and/or Breakaway System.

### POZ-LOC® Socket Breakaway System

- ◆ A simple, cost effective way to install post without digging, concrete, threading, or nuts and bolts.
- ◆ NCHRP-350 Crashworthy.

## Square Posts

- ◆ Easy, safe installation by hand or with power equipment.
- ◆ Versatile, 4-sided sign mounting, at any height.

### POZ-LOC® Post Anchor Breakaway System

- ◆ Can be driven into the ground first, allowing crews to work at ground level for quicker installations or replacement of damaged sign posts.
- ◆ NCHRP-350 Crashworthy.



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