



BIE SAFETY ADVISOR

2019 National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 8-12 – “Drive Like You Work Here”

Work zones play a key role in maintaining and upgrading our Nation's roadways. Unfortunately, daily changes in traffic patterns, narrowed rights-of-way, and other construction activities often create a combination of factors resulting in crashes, injuries, and fatalities. These crashes also cause excessive delays, especially given the constrained driving environment.

Each year, National Work Zone Awareness Week brings attention to these safety, mobility, and constructability issues. The key message is that, as a driver, you must use extra caution in work zones to keep yourself and others safe. In short: **Drive like you work here.**

SPEED AND SAFETY IN WORK ZONES

Speeding endangers everyone on the road, particularly in work zones. Speeding drivers are less likely to respond to traffic control devices or safely navigate the roadway conditions, lane closures, lane shifts, rough surfaces, and other conditions that are common in work zones. To stay safe, you should always slow down and proceed with caution whenever you see signs of highway work.

SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVING IN WORK ZONES

Plan Ahead - Work zones account for an estimated 10 percent of overall congestion and nearly 24 percent of unexpected freeway delays. Expect delays, plan for them, and leave early to reach your destination on time. When you can, avoid work zones altogether by using alternate routes.

Obey Road Crews and Signs - When approaching a work zone; watch for cones, barrels, signs, large vehicles, or workers in bright-colored vests to warn you and direct you where to go.

Slow Down - Look for signs indicating the speed limit through the work zone. Keep a safe

distance from the vehicle ahead of you and follow the posted speed limit.

Move Over - Most state move-over laws apply when passing work crews and official vehicles parked on the shoulder with flashing warning lights.

Avoid Distractions - Keep your eyes on the road and off your phone.

Watch for Sudden Stoppages - In 2017 approximately 25 percent of fatal work zone crashes involved rear-end collisions.

Watch for Large Vehicles - Don't make sudden lane changes in front of trucks that are trying to slow down. In 2017 approximately 50 percent of fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses occurred on rural roadways. Between 2013 and 2017, fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks increased by 43 percent.

In addition, on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, all roadway safety professionals across the country are encouraged to wear orange to proudly show their support of work zone safety. Go Orange Day and NWZAW is an important time to show your support of the roadway safety industry, especially to the families of victims who have lost their lives in work zones.

For more information of Nation Work Zone Awareness week, visit <http://www.nwzaw.org/>

