

Work Zone Safety Awareness



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What is a Work Zone?



- Work Zone is a term applied specifically to **highway and road construction sites** involving federal government funding.
- Concept is expanding to state and local roads.

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Work Zone Rule

- **Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule**, published Sept. 9, 2004 by the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that all state and local governments that receive federal-aid road funding must **comply with Work Zone rules by October 12, 2007.**



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Problems

- **Work Zones are dangerous!**
 - In 2005, **1,074 fatalities** occurred in Work Zones.
 - Approximately 2.5% of all roadway fatalities.
 - 4 out of 5 fatalities were motorists
 - Approximately one fatality every 8.2 hours (3 per day)
 - One Work Zone injury every 9 minutes (160 per day)



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Why are Work Zones So Dangerous?



- Work Zone activity is significant and increasing.
- Most road work takes place on already-active roads.
- Work Zones cause delay, often on already-congested roads.
- Motorists are increasingly likely to be exposed to Work Zones.
- Road users are frustrated with Work Zones.

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Driving Safely Through Work Zones

1. Be patient and stay calm.
2. Schedule enough time to drive safely.
 - Check radio, TV, paper, and websites for traffic information
3. Keep up with the traffic flow.



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Driving Safely Through Work Zones

4. Stay alert and minimize distractions.
5. Obey road crew flaggers.
6. Pay attention to the signs.
7. Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the construction workers and their equipment.
8. Don't tailgate—keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you.



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Driving Safely Through Work Zones

9. Slow down!
10. Expect the unexpected.



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Working Safely in Work Zones



- Recognize that Work Zone assignments are among the more hazardous, and require extra effort to ensure safety for workers.
- Become familiar with the new federal Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule, various aspects affect worker safety.

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/index.asp>

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Working Safely in Work Zones

- New rules specify PPE, typically including:
 - Reflective/brightly colored safety vests
 - Protective headwear
 - Footwear & other
- **Training required for all road and roadside workers.**
 - Especially flaggers (DOT required/certified course)



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Who is Responsible for Work Zone Safety?

- **Everyone!**

- **Engineers and Planners**

- **Make sure Work Zone design is proper and as safe as it can be**

- **Contractors**

- **Comply with Work Zone operational requirements for:**
 - **Traffic control**
 - **Work techniques**
 - **Employee safety**

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Who is Responsible for Work Zone Safety?

- **Everyone!**

- **Motorists, passengers, pedestrians, and cyclists**

- **Stay alert**
- **Obey signs and flaggers**
- **Control speed**
- **Anticipate the unexpected**
- **Act responsibly**



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Summary



- Work Zones are highway and road construction sites receiving federal funding.
- Work Zones are typically found on already active, congested roads.
- Driving through Work Zones is very hazardous and should be done carefully.
- Working in Work Zones requires extensive training and orientation to that particular environment.
- While conducting worksite evaluations of these environments there are key elements that should be in place to be in compliance with the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule created by the US Federal Highway Administration.

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