



WORK ZONES SHOULD BE SAFE ZONES

CONSTRUCTION SEASON

According to recent statistics, in 2023, there were **898** work zone fatalities and more than **40,170** injuries in the U.S. More than 80 percent of those killed in work zones were drivers and their passengers. Work zones are high-hazard areas that deserve special attention.



FOLLOWING ARE SOME TIPS FOR NAVIGATING SAFELY THROUGH CONSTRUCTION ZONES:

- Select an alternate route. One of the best ways to avoid long delays, frustration and the potential for an accident is to avoid construction zones. If an alternate route is not available, allow extra time in your schedule.
- Follow warning and caution signs. Slow down to the posted speed and move to the proper lane before entering the work area. Traffic or road conditions may require you to slow down even more.
- Keep a safe following distance. Rear-end collisions are a common work zone accident. Watch for slow moving traffic and be prepared for abrupt stops.
- Don't be a bully. Granted, it's frustrating to watch other drivers pass instead of merging to the proper lane as they should. However, if you use your vehicle to block or intimidate other drivers, you could cause an accident or be ticketed.
- Avoid distractions. Stay focused on driving so you are able to react quickly to sudden hazards.
- Stay in your lane. Narrow lanes and restricted shoulders make work zones a common place for lane-change accidents. Changing lanes in a construction zone is dangerous and is often prohibited for this reason.
- Watch for construction equipment and workers. Construction equipment entering and exiting work zones without warning, equipment protruding into traffic and construction crews and flaggers working dangerously close to moving traffic are just a few of the hazards to expect. Maintain a safe following distance behind construction vehicles. Watch for irritable and confused motorists. Traffic delays and changes to normal road design can cause some drivers to become confused and irritable. Expect unpredictable or erratic driving from other motorists.



- Stay alert for obstacles and debris. Construction equipment, signs and barriers are often located close to the edge of the roadway. Debris from work projects, such as dust, dirt and gravel, can create extra hazards.
- Exit work zones safely. Be aware of motorists who may attempt to pass on the right. Watch for construction equipment beyond the designated work area. Stay in your lane to allow other motorists, who can accelerate more quickly, to maneuver around you.



WORK ZONE SAFETY FACTS

- Work zone crashes resulted in 669 fatalities and 30,500 injuries during 2014
- 24 percent of work zone fatalities involve at least one large truck
- Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work zone crash
- Speeding, distraction & aggressive driving are behaviors that contribute to work zone crashes



QUESTION FOR REVIEW

When entering into a construction zone, you should:

- A. Reduce following distance and increase speed to prevent cars from getting in front of you.
- B. Maintain your speed with flow of traffic.
- C. Drive down the center of the road to prevent cars from merging at the last minute.
- D. Consult your GPS for an alternative route.
- E. Slow down to the posted speed, increase your following distance and be aware of passing motorist.

I have read and understand this document: X _____