



## Highway “Work Zones” often become “Wreck Zones”

As summer approaches, drivers will encounter an increase in construction and repair work on highways throughout the United States. The increase in the number of work zones is usually followed by an increase in vehicle accidents. Although the U.S. Department of Transportation reports that most fatalities occur in work zones during the summer and on weekends, driving through highway work zones can be exceptionally hazardous at any time.

Highway work zones pose a major threat to motorist and highway workers alike. This is why many states double fines for speeding or other traffic violations committed in highway construction zones. The following are some facts, obtained from the National Work Zone Information Clearinghouse that you should be mindful of, while driving in construction zones:

- More drivers and passengers are killed and injured in work zone crashes than highway workers.
- The most common crash in a highway work zone is a rear-end collision.
- The major trends for highway work zone crashes are speeding, following too close and inattentive driving.
- Speeding in work zones greatly reduces driver reaction time.
- It takes only 52 seconds longer to travel through a two-mile work zone at 45 mph than at 65 mph.
- Areas where traffic enter and exit work zones are the most dangerous because drivers are usually jockeying for position.

This summer, as traffic heats up, keep your cool and keep your distance.

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