

Work Zone Safety in Arizona

Slow Down, Arizona!



The Arizona Department of Transportation is committed to reducing collisions during freeway construction and maintenance work by increasing public awareness of the importance of driving safely within work zones.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), work zone fatalities increased nearly 40 percent between 1997 and 2005. In 2005 alone, more than 1,000 people died in freeway construction work zone collisions nationwide — accounting for nearly 3 percent of all roadway fatalities for the entire year. Most construction-related fatalities — four out of every five deaths — were motorists. This is in addition to the many construction field personnel, surveyors and highway maintenance staff who have been injured or killed in work zone accidents.

Can you put this in perspective?

- One work zone fatality every 8.2 hours (3 a day)
- One work zone injury every 9 minutes (160 a day)

Courtesy of FHWA Safety Web Site: www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov

Work Zone Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

FHWA, ADOT and other state and local agencies throughout Arizona are partnering with public safety agencies — the Department of Public Safety, local police and fire departments and emergency medical providers — to improve work zone safety through engineering, education and enforcement. Highway engineers and planners are responsible for designing construction work zones so they operate properly and safely. DPS and local police officers, as well as the courts, are responsible for enforcing traffic and work zone safety laws. Our public safety agencies are responsible for responding to and securing work zone traffic accident sites and enforcing traffic laws. Our state and local governments are responsible for providing funding for safe roads and helping to increase public awareness about work zone safety.

You can help! Each of us is responsible for driving, walking and biking safely through construction work zones. Whether you are a driver or a pedestrian, you are responsible for maintaining control, staying alert and obeying traffic laws, including signage, traffic barricades and flaggers within construction work zones. Even vehicle passengers can help by always wearing their seat belts and acting responsibly, so as not to distract drivers. Most importantly: slow down in work zones.

Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones



The Federal Highway Administration recommends the following tips for navigating safely through freeway construction work zones:

- 1. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!** Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed and people may be working on or near the road.
- 2. SLOW DOWN!** Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
- 3. DON'T TAILGATE! KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR AHEAD OF YOU.** The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision. So, don't tailgate!
- 4. KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT.** Turn on your vehicle headlights to become more conspicuous to workers and other motorists.
- 5. PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!** The warning signs and traffic barricades are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone. Be warned: fines can be doubled in construction zones!
- 6. OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS!** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
- 7. STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving - especially in a work zone.
- 8. KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW.** Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by merging as soon as possible. Don't drive right up to the lane closure and then try barge in.
- 9. SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME TO DRIVE SAFELY AND CHECK RADIO, TV AND WEB SITES FOR TRAFFIC INFORMATION.** Expect delays and leave early so you reach your destination on time. For traffic conditions, including information on work zone delays throughout Arizona, call **511** or visit the ADOT Intelligent Transportation Systems Web site at www.az511.com.
- 10. BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM.** Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.

