



## ***Five Minutes for Safety***

***April 2026***

*Someone is Waiting for You. SLOW DOWN. PAY ATTENTION. ARRIVE SAFE.  
Work Zones are temporary. The impact of YOUR Actions behind the wheel lasts forever.*

**Objective:** To reinforce the unique risks of excessive speed and distraction in and around roadside work zones. This is an opportunity to elevate the message year around and during the annual Work Zone Safety week each April.

**Opening:** Traffic is slowing when you see the familiar orange signs. Construction zone ahead. Do you use crawling traffic as an excuse to pull out your cellphone and scroll social media? Or maybe you're flying down the highway at an excessive speed when you suddenly come upon a crew working along the roadside.

While excess speed and distraction are always illegal, in both these situations, and others involving roadside workers, it's even more critical that you follow the law by keeping to the posted speed limit (which likely will be lower in a construction zone) and keeping your attention solely on driving. The result of inattention and speeding can be deadly for workers, for other drivers and for you and your passengers.

### ***Information for leading the conversation***



**899**

People died in work zones



**82**

Highway worker occupational  
fatalities in road construction sites



**705**

Drivers & their passengers  
died in work zones



**39,000**

Injuries in work zones reported

\*Stats according to NHTSA FARS and BLS data (2023). Data and additional statistics can also be found at [WorkZoneSafety.org](https://www.workzonesafety.org).

Here are a few things you should know about work zones:

- Work zones are wherever you see workers, flaggers and surveyors in bright yellow-green or orange vests.
- Work zones are marked with orange cones or barrels, concrete barriers, traffic control devices or moving vehicles with flashers.
- Work zones may operate day and night.
- Work zones present many challenges for trucks and buses – narrow lanes, sudden stops, traffic pattern shifts, and uneven road surfaces require all drivers to stay alert.





- Drivers traveling too fast and not paying attention are the main causes of work zone crashes.
- Follow these safe driving tips:
  - **Obey posted speed limits.** The fine for speeding in a work zone is \$300.
  - **Drive undistracted.** Avoid using phones, mobile devices, adjusting the radio – even eating – while in work zones.
  - **Move over.** Give workers room to safely complete their work.
  - **Be patient.** Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.
  - **Do the [zipper merge](#).**
  - **Avoid making unnecessary lane changes.**
  - **Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.**
  - **Expect work zones to constantly change.** Day to day you could experience lane shifts, closures, narrower lanes, moving workers and vehicles.

***Company/organization policy review, if applicable.***

### ***Closing reinforcement***

As we mark Work Zone Safety Week, I strongly encourage each of you to consider the consequences of unsafe driving the next time you come upon those orange signs, cones and roadside workers. Slow down. Pay attention. Do it for THEM. Work zones are temporary. YOUR Actions behind the wheel can last forever.

#### **Sources:**

*Minnesota Department of  
Transportation  
National Work Zone Safety Information  
Clearinghouse  
Federal Motor Safety Carrier  
Administration  
American Traffic Safety Services  
Association*

