



**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Contact:**  
Natalie Dale  
404.631.1814

## Work Zone Safety Week Emphasizes Need For Caution While Driving

**Atlanta** – Georgia’s Department of Transportation and Governor’s Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), along with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), are urging motorists statewide to be especially vigilant in preventing crashes in highway work zones.

Across the nation, highway departments, law enforcement agencies and private contractors are marking Work Zone Safety Week this week; asking drivers to be mindful of the heavy equipment and people quite often in close proximity to travel lanes in construction work zones. Georgia DOT has had 57 workers killed in work zones in the past 40 years and many more contract workers and civilians also have died.

“When highway work zone accidents occur, drivers and their passengers represent the majority of resultant fatalities – more than 80 percent,” Georgia Transportation Commissioner Keith Golden noted, “Georgia DOT works every day to create a transportation network that is safe for everyone. We agonize over every accident, injury and fatality on our roadways. It is especially difficult when a co-worker is injured or killed on-the-job in a work zone while serving our state.”

Noting a car at 60 mph travels 88 feet per second, Golden, FHWA Georgia Division Program Development Director Steve Luxenberg and GOHS Law Enforcement Director Ricky Rich, reminded drivers to stay especially alert and observant in work zones and most importantly, to slow down as directed; lives can be lost or forever changed in only a moment.

*Each day, hundreds of Georgia Department of Transportation employees and contractors work on dozens of highway, bridge and intersection improvements throughout the state. Their work often brings them and heavy machinery in close proximity to travel lanes. Fifty-seven Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors’ workers have been killed in highway work zone accidents since 1973. Please help us prevent these tragedies by slowing down; being especially attentive and cautious as you pass through construction work zones; and always driving responsibly. Safer Driving; Safer Work Zones; For Everyone. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release RSS feed. You also may follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT)) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepstofrans>).*



*Georgia DOT Commissioner Keith Golden speaks at the 2013 Work Zone Safety Awareness ceremony on Tuesday, April 16.*

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