

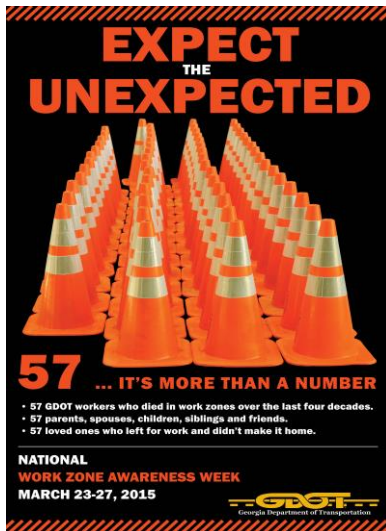


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## *“EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED” CAMPAIGN PROMOTES AWARENESS OF WORK ZONES* **Highway Work Zone Safety Focus of Georgia DOT Program**

THOMASTON, Ga. – The Georgia Department of Transportation will observe the 2015 National Work Zone



Awareness Week March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> in a coordinated effort to bring attention to motorist and worker safety and mobility issues in its highway work zones, and emphasize the importance of driving safely in those construction zones, while confirming its commitment to providing the highest level of safety for both motorists and workers.

"Expect the Unexpected" is the theme of the 2015 Work Zone Safety Awareness campaign, which is the same as the original theme used 15 years ago in the national event that was created to focus attention on work zone safety and work zone workers. Since the creation of the national campaign the number of work zone fatalities has dropped significantly. However, work zone fatality still occurs every 8.2 hours nationwide—that's three deaths per day. A work zone **injury** occurs every nine minutes! Fortunately, no Georgia DOT workers died in work zones the past five years.

GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry will preside over an observance and memorial ceremony at an active work zone on the Northwest Corridor project on I-75 at the Canton Road exit off-ramp in Marietta at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday,

March 24, 2015. The program will feature a moment of silence to remember the 57 GDOT workers who have died in work zones since the Department began keeping such records in 1973. It will also include remarks by Commissioner McMurry who will be joined by other speakers, including Melissa Robertson of the Georgia Division of the Federal Highway Administration; Harris Blackwood, executive director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety; and other representatives of federal and state agencies.

The observance is to remind drivers how they can help keep everyone in a highway construction work zone safe. The arrival of spring and warmer weather mean an increase in highway construction and heightens the risk for Georgia motorists and GDOT workers.

While the observance will memorialize GDOT workers, Commissioner McMurry will emphasize that the general public is at risk in work zones as well. He will point out that working together, we can help eliminate work zone accidents and make our state a safer place to drive and work. At Georgia DOT we do our part by making sure work zones are properly marked, by educating our workers on how they can better protect themselves and motorists, and by helping educate the public on the dangers of work zones.

Since three out of four work zone fatalities are motorists not workers, the public's cooperation and help are crucial if we in Georgia are to succeed in achieving one of the safest work zones in America. Here's how you, the traveling public can help:

- Obey posted speed limits, and adjust your speed for road conditions.
- Slow down and be especially alert for workers and dangerous conditions, including vehicle movement, uneven pavement and sharp drop-offs in work zones.
- Plan an alternate route if possible that avoids work zones.
- And always wear your seat belt.

*The Georgia Department of Transportation provides a safe, connected and environmentally sensitive transportation system that enhances Georgia's economic competitiveness by working efficiently and communicating effectively to create strong partnerships. 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 may like us on [Facebook](#) ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT)) and follow us on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans) (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans>).*

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