



Georgia Department of Transportation

Work Zone Safety 2009

"Drive to Survive: Our Future is Riding On It"

Fast Facts:

- One work zone fatality occurs every 8.2 hours nationwide. That's three a day!
- One work zone injury occurs every nine minutes nationally. That's a staggering 160 a day!
- Crashes are the leading cause of death for Americans ages three to 34 and costs society \$ 7,300 per second.
- Three out of four work zone fatalities, (or 85 percent) are not part of the work crew – they are your family members, your co-workers, your friends – motorists and passengers like you and me.
- Approximately 60 percent of traffic fatalities nationwide occur on rural roads, even though those roads bear only 35 percent of all travel.
- In 2005, Americans traveled almost three billion vehicle miles. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 42,642 people were killed in motor vehicle accidents in 2006.
- Passenger vehicle occupants killed in rollover crashes increased by 2.1 percent in 2006. It increased for vans and pickup trucks and declined slightly for SUVs.
- An estimated 11,000 Americans suffer injuries and 160 die each year in crashes related to unsafe pavement edges, at a cost of \$1.2 billion.
- More than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.
- In 2005, Georgia lost 61 people in work zone accidents.
- For hundreds of Georgia Department of Transportation employees, the heavily traveled roadways and work zones are their offices.
- A person convicted of exceeding the speed limit in a work zone can be fined between \$100 and \$2,000, or up to 12 months in jail, or both (OCGA 40-6-188)
- **Since 1973, there have been 56 Georgia DOT employees killed in work zones.**

Most common contributing factors in work zone safety accidents: Speed and Distractions

What's Your Role as a Motorist in Work Zone Safety?

Slow Down: Speeding is the most common factor in a work zone safety accident.

Pace Yourself: Don't tailgate other motorists or construction vehicles.

Read all signs: Signs are in place to assist in safely directing motorists through the work zone.

Obey road crew flaggers: These workers are equivalent to traffic signals.

Stay Alert: Minimize distractions and give your full attention to the road.

Expect the Unexpected: Lane shifts, reduced speeds and work crews are all possibilities within a work zone.