
WORK ZONE SAFETY

Work Zone Crash Trends

- In 2019, the most recent year for which data are available, 842 people died in highway work zone crashes compared to 757 the year before¹. The 11.2-percent increase is the largest percentage increase of highway work zone fatalities this century.
- On average, large trucks are overrepresented in work zone crashes. In 2019, over 33 percent of fatal crashes involved Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV) and compared to the year before, the U.S. saw a 16 percent increase in the number of fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses².
- From 2018 to 2019 fatal work zone crashes:
 - involving a rear-end collision increased by 29 percent³
 - where speeding was a factor increased by nearly 40 percent⁴
 - involving worker fatalities at road construction sites increased from by nearly 9 percent⁵

Sharing the Road

- Work zones present challenges for truck drivers – narrowed lanes, sudden stops, traffic pattern shifts, and uneven road surfaces can lead to crashes and fatalities if they are not prepared and alert. Plan your route, reduce speed, stay alert, and do your part while traveling through work zones.
- Large blind spots, long stopping distances, and size constraints make maneuvering large trucks and buses in work zones particularly challenging. Passenger vehicles should be mindful that CMV drivers need to take extra precaution when driving through these areas.
- Pay close attention to road workers and flaggers – give them extra room, always slow when approaching them, and be prepared to stop if necessary.

How to Drive Safely Through Work Zones

- There are plenty of resources available to research your routes and check for upcoming work zones. Make sure you know of any road work before embarking on your route and when possible, use detours to avoid having to pass through these areas.
- Reduce speed while traveling through work zones, paying close attention to signs and signals.
- Be aware of passenger vehicle drivers around you, who may not be aware of commercial vehicle driving challenges, including large blind spots and longer stopping distances.
- When approaching lane closures, move into the open lane as soon as possible – pay close attention to vehicles around you that could be in your blind spot.
- Rear-end crashes are common in work zones – obey all speeds, avoid distractions and maintain extra space between your vehicle and the one in front of you at all times.

¹ FARS 2018 Final File and 2019 Annual Report File, NHTSA.

² FARS 2019 Annual Report File, NHTSA.

³ FARS 2018 Final File and 2019 Annual Report File, NHTSA.

⁴ FARS 2018 Final File and 2019 Annual Report File, NHTSA.

⁵ 2018 and 2019 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with States, New York City, the District of Columbia, and Federal agencies

TRAVELING SAFELY THROUGH WORK ZONES

Traveling safely, slowly, and attentively through work zones is critically important, particularly as a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver. Narrow lanes, sudden stops, traffic pattern shifts, and uneven road surfaces present unique challenges in these areas for large trucks and buses. In fact, large trucks are overrepresented in fatal work zone crashes.

Do your part to stay safe with tips from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Our Roads, Our Safety campaign:



RESEARCH YOUR ROUTE

Before setting out on the road, research your route. When possible, avoid work zones and use any detours that are available.

PAY ATTENTION

Be aware of all signs throughout work zones that can indicate reduced speeds, lane changes, and other important information. Avoid distractions such as your cellphone, eating, drinking, the radio, GPS, and conversing with other passengers.



SLOW DOWN

Lane closures, traffic pattern shifts, and reduced speeds are common in work zones. Make sure to slow down when entering a work zone and keep an eye out for road workers.

MOVE INTO THE OPEN LANE

When approaching lane closures, move into the open lane as soon as possible. Be sure to pay close attention to vehicles around you that could be in your blind spot, and ensure you're not traveling in someone else's.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Rear-end crashes are extremely common in work zones. Always maintain extra space between your vehicle and the one in front of you.

Safety Brief

WORK ZONE SAFETY

This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: _____ Date: _____

Trainer: _____ Trainer's Signature: _____

Class Participants:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

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