

# Work zone awareness

## Nationally, it's April 2–6

But, if your shop is serious about worker and motorist safety, every week that your agency conducts road construction or maintenance activities should be Work Zone Safety Week.

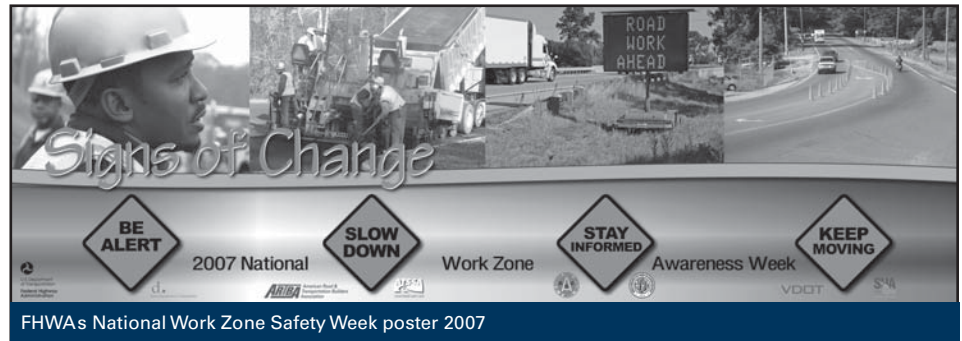
Here are some ideas for enhancing work zone safety in your jurisdiction:

### Engineering

- Plan and implement standard work zones per the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (and NCHRP 350, which contains federal standards and guidelines for work zone safety devices).
- Use Quickzone software to help you improve work zone safety and mobility ([www.tfhrcc.gov/its/quickzon.htm](http://www.tfhrcc.gov/its/quickzon.htm)).
- Make sure emergency vehicles can access your work zones at all times.
- Work closely with law enforcement officials to identify appropriate countermeasures for high-risk work zone locations.
- Avoid construction delays.

### Education

- Provide technical training about work zone safety for your staff. Examples:
  - Flagger safety training, available through Iowa's safety circuit rider, Tom McDonald, 515-294-6384, [tmcdonal@iastate.edu](mailto:tmcdonal@iastate.edu).
  - *Model Traffic Management Program*, a self-evaluation guide to identify strengths and weaknesses of your work zone activities ([www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/evalgd.pdf](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/evalgd.pdf)).
  - *Best Practices Guidebook* highlights good work zone practices ([www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/workzone.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/workzone.htm)).
- Improve public awareness through public service announcements and/or articles in the newspaper. For possible content see
  - The "10 Tips" sidebar accompanying this article.
  - The National Work Zone Safety Week website, [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/wz\\_awareness.htm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/wz_awareness.htm).
  - Encourage your local schools and/or driver education programs



to use *Moving Safely across America*, an interactive CD with information on how to drive safely through work zones. To borrow a copy contact Jim Hogan, Iowa LTAP library coordinator, 515-294-9481, [hoganj@iastate.edu](mailto:hoganj@iastate.edu). To purchase a copy or for more information contact Timothy Barkley at FHWA, [timothy.barkley@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:timothy.barkley@fhwa.dot.gov).

### Enforcement

Work with local law enforcement to ensure their vigilance about drivers who speed or ignore work zone signs.

### For more information

See FHWA's website, [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/wz\\_awareness.htm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/wz_awareness.htm). ■

## 10 Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones

You should ...	Because in work zones ...
Expect the unexpected.	Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed or merged, people may be working on or near the road, and other motorists may not be paying attention.
Slow down.	Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
Don't tailgate.	Rear-end collisions are the most common crash in highway work zones. Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you.
Maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and construction workers and their equipment.	Road workers and equipment may inadvertently move into your travel lane.
Observe posted signs.	Warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone.
Obey the flaggers.	Flaggers have the same authority as regulatory signs. You can be cited for disobeying their directions.
Stay alert.	There's little room for error in work zones. If you get sleepy, stop at a rest area for some fresh air, a walk, or a nap.
Minimize distractions.	The slightest inattention—changing radio stations, using a phone, eating, reading maps, etc.—while you're behind the wheel makes it difficult to focus your attention on the road and work zone.
Keep up with the traffic flow.	Driving right up to a lane closure and then trying to enter the traffic lane can cause rear-end collisions. When warned of merging traffic ahead, merge as soon as possible.
Allow plenty of time.	Delays may occur. Ahead of your trip, check local TV and radio listings about work zones. Where road work is occurring, anticipate delays.
Be patient; stay calm.	Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you but to improve your future driving conditions.