

****For PSC Insiders Circle Members only****

\$3.97 USD

Friday Safety Brief®

The 2011 National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is being held this week (April 4-8). The theme of this year's NWZAW is *"Safer Driving. Safer Work Zones. For Everyone."*

Who Is Responsible for Work Zone Safety?

Everyone. We all are responsible for driving, walking, and biking, safely through work zones. The engineers and planners have the responsibility to make sure the work zone is designed and operating properly -- with safety in mind. Drivers and pedestrians have the responsibility to always be alert and obey the traffic laws. Passengers should always buckle up and act responsibly. The police and the courts have the responsibility to make sure that the traffic and work zone laws are enforced. Public safety agencies have the responsibility of responding to and securing crash locations and enforcing traffic laws. Local communities and county and state governments need to allocate funding for safe roads and increase public awareness about work zone safety. **Everyone should take responsibility for work zone safety.**

10 Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones



- ☛ **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!** Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.
- ☛ **SLOW DOWN!** Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
- ☛ **DON'T TAILGATE! KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR AHEAD OF YOU.** The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision. So, don't tailgate.
- ☛ **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND THE CONSTRUCTION**

WORKERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT.

- ☛ **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!** The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone.
- ☛ **OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS!** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
- ☛ **STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving in a work zone.
- ☛ **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW.** Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by merging as soon as possible. Don't drive right up to the lane closure and then try barge in.
- ☛ **SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME TO DRIVE SAFELY AND CHECK RADIO, TV AND WEBSITES FOR TRAFFIC INFORMATION.** Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time.
- ☛ **BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM.** Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.

According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse:

In 2009, 667 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in highway work zones and more than 30,000 were injured.

