



Transportation Safety Alert

Published by Motor Transport Underwriters, Inc. - Indianapolis, Indiana

Volume 1 - Number 1

March 1999



WORK ZONE Safety



While it may seem winter still has its grip on us, spring is closer than we think. We're already two races into the NASCAR season and that means road construction will soon be upon us.

This year promises to be one of the busiest construction seasons in recent memory due to increased funding for highway projects. On a yearly basis the Federal Highway Administration estimates as many as 750 to 850 fatalities occur in construction zone accidents. Another study found that almost half of these fatalities involved rear end collisions. The three most common accidents are vehicles striking other vehicles, vehicles striking a fixed object and vehicles striking highway workers.

During construction season (April through October) drivers must anticipate delays and be patient when encountering them. As you approach them, slow down and be prepared. Once in the zone, extreme caution should be used. While you are moving you should: observe speed limits, don't make erratic movements, share with other motorists, give yourself enough room, plan/anticipate stopping and use alternative routing.

Remember, there will be flaggers, laborers, machinery and other vehicles to contend with. Stay alert, look ahead and you will get through the zone and back on your way.

Always be alert

- Watch for the bright-orange, diamond-shaped Work Zone signs.
- Check your speed. Reduced speed limits may be posted.
- Traffic fines may be doubled for violations in work zones.

Watch for stopped or slowing traffic

- Increase following distance.
- Sudden stops can create product surge and DRIVE you into the vehicle ahead.
- Rear-end collisions are the most common work-zone accident.

Slow down

- Workers and equipment may be very close to traffic lanes.
- Lane widths are often reduced.
- Detours may be required. PLAN AHEAD!
- The road surface may be rough and bumpy.