

# *Georgia Struck By Alliance*



*Georgia Highway Work Zone  
Safety Stand Down*

*November 7-11, 2011*

*Distracted  
Driving*

# *Georgia Highway Work Zone Safety Stand Down*

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## ■ *What is distracted driving?*

- Any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing.

## ■ 3 main types of distraction:

- **Visual** **We are the faces of distracted driving.**  
We are mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, brother, spouses and friends to those who have died
- **Manual** because people chose to take part in phone calls or
- **Cognitive** text messages while driving.

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- ***Why is distracted driving a problem?***
  - Distracted driving crashes killed more than 5,400 people and injured nearly 500,000 in 2009. (DOT)
  - 20 percent of injury crashes in 2009 involved reports of distracted driving. (NHTSA)
  - Of those killed in distracted-driving-related crashes, 995 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction (18% of fatalities in distraction-related crashes). (NHTSA)

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- Phones don't get all the blame!

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- Smartphones take center stage, but they're not in this alone! Other culprits are:

- In-car technologies
- Food and drinks
- Children
- Pets
- Grooming
- Smoking
- Rubbernecking
- Singing



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## ■ Cracking Down

- 30 states have passed laws against texting while driving.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation is focusing on reducing driver distractions and leading a nationwide crusade to engage corporate America and citizens.

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Year after year, the leading cause of worker fatalities is motor vehicle crashes.

## ■ *What YOU can do:*

- Lead by example
- Work with your *employers* to:
  - declare work vehicles “text-free zones”
  - follow company/employer policies that ban texting while driving
  - establish work procedures and rules that do not make it necessary to text while driving in order to carry out job duties

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- Highway worker safety is a shared responsibility.
- Be responsible for taking required safeguards.
- Review safety procedures and analyze the situations to learn how to best protect yourself.
- Go home safely at the end of the work day, and
- Don't be one of those distracted drivers!

# *Work Zone Facts*

- In 2007, 837 work zone fatalities occurred in the U.S:
  - One fatality every 10 hours nationwide (2.3 per day)
  - One injury every 13 minutes nationally (110 per day)
- More than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.
- 35% of occupational fatalities reported are associated with motor vehicles.
- 1308 workers died each year from crashes on public highways
- 347 pedestrian workers died each year as a result of being struck by a motor vehicle.

## ***More Work Zone Facts***

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- ½ of fatal work zone crashes occur during the day; most on weekdays and most in summer and fall.
- More than 20% of the National Highway System is under construction during peak season
- An estimate 12 billion vehicles travel a year through active work zones along roadways.
- For thousands of utility and highway work zone employees, the heavily traveled roadways and work zones are their offices.

# ***YOU ARE ALSO THE PUBLIC***

## ***Tips to Remember When YOU Drive in a Work Zone***

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- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!**  
Reduced speed limits, lane changes, workers on or near road.
- **SLOW DOWN!**  
Obey posted speed limits.
- **DON'T TAILGATE! KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR AHEAD OF YOU!**  
Rear end collisions - most common crash in a work zone
- **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND THE WORKERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT!**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!**  
Warning signs help drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe signs until one says you've left the work zone.

# ***Georgia Struck By Hazards Alliance***

- **OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS!**

Flaggers know what is best for moving traffic safely and have the same authority as a sign.

- **STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!**

Avoid texting or using cell phones or other distracting tasks while driving through a work zone.

- **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW!**

Motorists help maintain traffic flow and speeds by merging smoothly. Don't slow to "gawk" or "rubberneck"

- **SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME TO DRIVE SAFELY!**

Expect delays. Leave early to reach your destination on time. Check radio, TV and websites for work zone delays.

- **BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM!**

Work zones aren't there to inconvenience you.

# GEORGIA STRUCK-BY ALLIANCE PARTICIPANTS



FHWA  
Georgia Division



# *Georgia Highway Work Zone Safety Stand Down*

Make this your motto:

keepn my mind OTR n my hands on d wheel !

## ***Questions ???***

**We are the faces of distracted driving.**

We are mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, sisters, brother, spouses and friends to those who have died because people chose to take part in phone calls or text messages while driving.

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*For additional information on distracted driving, these sites are available:*

- *Occupational Safety and Health Administration: [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)*
- *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)*
- *National Safety Council: [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)*
- *Focus Driven: [www.focusdriven.org](http://www.focusdriven.org)*