

11 Tips for Driving in Work Zones

- **Obey the Rules of Work Zone:** (1) Pay attention (2) Slow down (3) Watch for workers
- **Expect the Unexpected.** Things may change quickly. Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be closed, narrowed, or shifted, and people may be working on or near the road.
- **Don't Speed.** Obey the posted speed limit, even when workers are not present. In 2016, there were 190 work zone fatal crashes where speeding was a factor.
- **Don't Tailgate.** Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you and the construction workers and their equipment.
- **Obey Road Crew Flaggers and Pay Attention to Signs.** Failure to obey speed limit signs or a flagger's traffic control directions can result in hefty fines and/or imprisonment.
- **Stay Alert and Minimize Distractions.** Give your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones and other electronic devices while approaching and driving in a work zone.
- **Keep Up with the Traffic Flow.** Do not slow down to gawk at road work.
- **Know Before You Go.** Expect delays, leave early and schedule enough time to drive safely. For 24/7 real-time traffic information call 511 or visit www.511ga.org (do not do this when driving!). And follow Georgia DOT on Twitter for additional updates.
- **Be Patient and Stay Calm.** Work zone crews are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.
- **Wear Your Seatbelt.** It is your best defense in a crash. And make sure your passengers are buckled up.
- **Remember** - Dads, Moms, Sons, Daughters, Brothers, and Sisters Work HERE!

Work Zone Safety and Georgia Driving Laws

- **Distracted driving** From cell phones and iPods to fast-food snacks and driver drowsiness, there are more than enough distractions to keep Georgia motorists from focusing on our roads. And now new national data is showing driver inattention is a key cause in most crashes and near-crashes. Georgia's Hands-Free Law took effect July 2018 (<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/highway-safety/hands-free-law/>) and states drivers cannot have a phone in their hand or touching any part of their body while talking on their phone when driving.
- **Georgia's Move-Over Law** says motorists traveling in the lane adjacent to the shoulder must move-over one lane when emergency and utility vehicles are stopped on the side of the highway and operating in an official capacity. Vehicles included in the law include all first responders (law enforcement, fire, EMS), utility vehicles, DOT vehicles, HERO Units and wreckers tending to an accident. The law is meant to keep officers AND traffic violators safe from crashes with passing cars. The Move Over Law fine in Georgia can be up to \$500.
- To view and share GDOT's 30-second work zone safety video and for additional information, visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/Workzone.