



April 26-30, 2021

FACTS ABOUT WORK ZONE SAFETY

Georgia DOT and Work Zone Safety

- Since 1973, 60 Georgia DOT employees have died in work zone related incidents.
- Fatal work zone crashes in Georgia have steadily decreasing from 55 fatalities in 2017 to 52 fatalities in 2018 to 38 fatalities in 2019!
- In 2019, there were 26,039 total crashes in Georgia work zones, resulting in 8,355 injuries.
- Motorists or passengers make up 78% of work zone fatalities in Georgia.
- The top causes for fatal work zone crashes were roadway departure and rear end collisions. Both are often associated with distraction, driving too fast for conditions and driver impairment (under the influence or fatigued).
- There were 11 fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles and nine pedestrian-involved fatalities in Georgia work zones.

Background

- **National Work Zone Awareness Week** (NWZAW) is an annual spring campaign sponsored by federal, state and local transportation officials to raise the public consciousness about the need for driving safely in work zones. The campaign draws attention to the safety needs of road workers, as well as motorists. NWZAW is held at the start of the highway construction season across most of the country.
- National Work Zone Awareness Week, which began in 1999, is designed to inform motorists about the dangers of driving through work zones and of the perils faced by construction and maintenance workers, law enforcement, EMTs, GDOT HERO and CHAMP operators and tow truck drivers.
- According to the Federal Highway Administration, nationally in 2018 (the most recent year for which data is available):
 - 671 fatal work zone crashes with 754 fatalities, including 124 workers
 - 238 work zone fatalities involving large trucks and buses
 - 121 work zone fatalities involving pedestrians
- **Safe Work Zones for All: Protect workers. Protect road users. We Can Do It!** Whether you work in an office or on the road, everyone deserves to get home safely. The 2020 theme for Work Zone Safety Awareness Week—Safe work zones for all—reminds drivers that while they may work in the safety of an office with walls, others work amid the real dangers of roadway work zones. And it is not only workers who are in peril - most victims in work zone crashes are drivers or passengers.

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 service vehicles, DOT vehicles, HERO and CHAMP operators 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.

For details on Georgia's driving laws visit <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/highway-safety/>

For more information about work zone safety, to download the poster and to view GDOT's video Don't Cut Their Stories Short, featuring GDOT workers, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/Workzone>

Remember – Spouses, Significant others, dads, moms, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters work here! Drive like you work here, too.

Please, don't cut their stories short.

#NWZAW #Orange4Safety #WorkZoneSafety #SafeWorkZones