

# Safety Bulletin

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## Focus on Safety: 10 Tips to Stay Safe in Work Zones

The orange signs. . . the flashing lights. . . the cones and Jersey barriers. They're all signs of spring. They're also signs of highway construction season. While safe driving is always important, it's critical at this time of year when you're dealing with changing traffic lanes, reduced speed limits and increased traffic.



### Here are 10 tips to help you stay accident-free:

- 1. Watch the signs.** When you see diamond-shaped orange warning signs, know construction is ahead. Prepare to change lanes and slow down as required.
- 2. Slow down.** A vehicle traveling 60 mph travels 88 feet per second. If you're going 60 mph and you pass a sign that says "Road Work 1,500 feet," you'll reach that work zone in just 17 seconds.
- 3. Merge safely.** Get in the correct lane well in advance.
- 4. Avoid rear-end collisions.** They're the most common crash in a highway work zone. The best tip: double your usual following distance so you have time to safely react to debris, potholes or sudden braking by vehicles in front of you.
- 5. Watch for "zippers".** These are the motorists who zip in and out of slowing traffic, often cutting off large tractor-trailers. They seldom think about how they are endangering themselves or others by disobeying the work zone signs.
- 6. Look for a flagger.** A "flagger ahead" warning sign is your signal to stay alert. When you reach the flagger, follow his or her directions; you can be cited if you don't.
- 7. Be ready to stop.** Active road construction sites will be populated with both construction workers and vehicles, so pay close attention to any and all movement.
- 8. Navigate work zones carefully.** Projects like painting, road patching and mowing are mobile, which means you may not see workers until later in the work zone. Also, when temporary median crossovers are used, beware of uneven or sloped road surfaces that can disrupt your truck's handling and stability.
- 9. Expect delays.** If you know a work zone will be on your route, leave early or use an alternate route so you can reach your destination on time.
- 10. Be patient.** Work zones are there to improve the roads for everyone. Keeping calm is the best way to stay safe. A burst of aggression isn't worth a potentially tragic consequence.

