



## CONSTRUCTION ZONE SAFETY

June 2019

The spring rainy season is over which means construction zones will start “popping” up all over the nation. As roads and bridges age, they need repair or replacement, causing workers to re-direct traffic as they do their work.

A primary concern in construction zones is the safety of the men and women working on our roads and bridges. To ensure their safety and to avoid crashes we must be extra cautious in construction areas.

Some tips to share with your staff and drivers include:

- **Slow down** – this is a core safety value in any situation where there is a higher risk of a crash. Slowing down creates more space and this extra space yields more time to respond to the everchanging circumstances.
- **Pay attention** – even though many “regular drivers” can be seen checking their phones, this is a violation of FMCSA regulations for professional drivers. This should not be done at any time and in construction zones especially. Drivers should be keeping an eye out for construction zones and the lower speed signs instead of doing other things.
- **Be patient** – this is a key behavior for a professional driver. We must exercise extra patience to allow for other drivers that may not be able to do this.
- **Obey the signs** – a construction zone is designed and planned by traffic engineers. They examine many factors like lines of sight, distances etc. to place the signs for a work zone. The zones are designed to protect the workers and make the delay as short as possible.
- **Drive defensively** – don’t follow too closely. Make sure to be alert and expect things to change. For example, a piece of equipment may not know that the back of the machine is just over the line out into the lane of travel. Be prepared to make adjustments.
- **Lane pattern changes** – many construction zones have a lane shift that moves all traffic to the opposite side of the road. These lane shifts can be abrupt, especially for a high profile vehicle. Reduce speed even more and be certain the trailer does not track outside the lane of travel.
- **Solid white lines** – everyone who has driven through a construction zone knows these solid white lines mean – *stay in your lane*. Follow this traffic regulation even if you see other vehicles crossing them.

A construction zone is a place for any driver to set an example for other drivers. Help the workers improving our roads do their work and get home safely. Their safety is in YOUR hands.