



## CONSTRUCTION ZONE SAFETY

June 2020

Warm weather means construction zones will start “popping” up all over the nation. As our roads and bridges age, they need repair and replacement, creating the need for workers to re-direct traffic as they do their work.

A primary concern in construction zones is, of course, the safety of the men and women working on our roads and bridges. To keep them safe 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. The extra space yields more time to respond to the ever-changing circumstances.
- **Pay attention** – construction zones and the lower speeds, usually 45mph, are NOT the time to do other things. 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, especially NOT in construction zones.
- **Be patient** – this is a key behavior for a professional driver. We must exercise extra patience to allow for other drivers who may not be able to do this.

- **Obey the signs** - a construction zone is designed and planned by traffic engineers. They examine lines of sight, distances and many other factors to place the signs for a work zone. They are designed to protect the workers and make the delay as short as possible.
- **Drive defensively** - don't follow too closely. Be alert and expect things to change. For example, the operator of 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 highway. This is most often found when bridges are being replaced or rebuilt. 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. Please follow this traffic regulation even if you see other vehicles crossing them.

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



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