



You've seen the orange cones and barrels in Maryland's roadway work zones. You've probably seen our highway workers, too. They're out on the road every day mowing, repairing pot holes and repairing roads and bridges – making our State safer for you and your family.

Highway work zones can result in delays and frustrations. We realize your life is busy and your time is precious. Please understand when you drive dangerously through a highway work zone you're putting the lives of highway workers at risk, you're risking your life, and you're risking the lives of your loved ones. That's because four out of five people who die in highway work zones are either drivers or their passengers. Safer driving. Safer work zones. For everyone.

Scary Statistics

When it comes to work zones, even the smallest mistake can be deadly. Take a look at these numbers:

- Nationally, more than 700 people die in work zones each year.
- In Maryland, over the last ten years on average there have been more than 2,600 crashes, 1,400 people injured and 12 people killed each year in work-zone related crashes.
- Four out of five people killed in work zones are motorists – not highway workers.
- The single major crash type involves rear-end crashes (30 percent.)
- While most major work occurs at night, the majority of work zone crashes occur during daylight hours (68.5 percent).
- On average, most work zone crashes (more than 10 percent in each of the following jurisdictions) occurred in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and Baltimore City.
- Not paying attention, going too fast for conditions, failure to yield the right-of-way and following too closely were major contributing factors in work zone crashes.

Driving Tips

These simple tips could save your life in a work zone:

- **Stay alert!** Look for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and highway workers.
- **Pay attention.** Work zone signs will tell you exactly what to expect ahead.
- **Merge early.** If drivers merge as soon as they see the signs, traffic will flow more smoothly.
- **Slow down.** You may encounter slowed or stopped traffic in an instant.
- **Don't follow too closely.** Maintain a safe distance on all sides of your vehicle.
- **Minimize distractions.** Remember Maryland State law bans hand-held cell phones and texting.
- **Plan ahead.** Expect delays and allow extra travel time. Select an alternate route if you are running late. Learn about current and planned lane closures at www.roads.maryland.gov and then click on "CHART."



Our Safety Commitment to You:

- Working during nighttime and off-peak hours when possible.
- Installing concrete barrier walls on interstate construction projects where feasible.
- Communicating construction information to travelers and the media.
- Using electronic message and arrow boards.
- Wearing high visibility safety apparel and protective equipment.
- Cleaning up work zone crashes quickly and safely.

Links:

<http://www.sha.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=403&d=91>



- [Automated Speed Enforcement in Work Zones](#)