



How Significant is the Work Zone Safety Problem?

- ◆ Work zone safety is a constant concern. In 2009, there were 667 work zone fatalities nationwide – a decrease from 2008.
- ◆ More than 30,000 people are injured yearly in work zones and 85% of those killed are motorists.
- ◆ Put this in perspective. In the U.S. there is -
 - ~ One work zone fatality every 13 hours
 - ~ One work zone injury every 13 minutes
- ◆ Last year in Kentucky, there was one work zone fatality, a decrease from a high of three in 2008, according to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet statistics. There were 116 injuries, the vast majority of them suffered by motorists.

WORK ZONES: BE ALERT... BE PATIENT... BE SAFE...

- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!** Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.
- **SLOW DOWN!** Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
- **DON'T TAILGATE!** Keep a safe distance between your car and the cars ahead. The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear-end collision, so leave two car lengths between you and the car in front of you.
- **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND EQUIPMENT.**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!** The warning signs are there to help drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone.
- **OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS!** The flagger knows what's best for moving safely in the work zone and has authority, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
- **STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving in a work zone. About 25 percent of all traffic crashes are related to distracted driving.
- **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW.** Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by merging as soon as possible. Don't drive right up to the lane closure and then try to barge in.
- **SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME.** Call 5-1-1 or visit www.511.ky.gov for Kentucky traffic and travel information.
- **BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM.** Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.