



Highway Worker Safety

FACT SHEET

GOALS

Save the lives of highway workers, contractors and motorists. Increase public awareness about driving safely in construction and maintenance work zones.

FACT

Since 1921, 184 California Department of Transportation employees have been killed on the job. One of the biggest hazards is from motorists who do not exercise caution while driving where highway workers are present.

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A RISKY SITUATION

Traffic on our state's highways is steadily increasing, making the challenges to build and maintain these roads more difficult. As the transportation system ages, the workload increases, exposing thousands of highway workers to more dangers. Often times these men and women have nothing more than a string of orange cones standing between them and speeding traffic. There is no room for error in the work zone – driving while impaired or distracted could result in injury or even death for passengers or workers.

It's not only Caltrans workers but also construction contractor employees who risk their lives along the freeway. Every year, more than 1,000 workers and motorists die in highway work zone crashes and more than 40,000 are injured. Fines of \$1,000 or more can be given for work zone violations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Highway worker safety is a shared responsibility. Highway workers take continuous measures to ensure safety, such as participating in training, updating equipment and alerting motorists in advance of highway jobs – but this is only half the battle. As a motorist, you need to do your share by never driving impaired and by dedicating all your attention to the roadway. Plan your trip in advance. There are plenty of websites available that provide real-time traffic and planned lane-closure information. Give yourself plenty of time, slow down in highway work zones, don't brake suddenly or tailgate other drivers.

Highway safety starts with information. Check out the CaltransInfoEdge, 511sd, or ShiftSanDiego websites for real-time traffic information in the San Diego Region. You can also get the latest highway closures info on Twitter @SDCaltrans.

MOVE OVER AND SLOW DOWN

Motorists are required by state law to move over a lane when safe to do so as they approach a highway worker's vehicle or other emergency response vehicles with flashing amber lights. This provides an added buffer that could be a life saver. Remember to Be Work Zone Alert.