

## Work Zone Season Is Starting!

Winter is winding down according to the calendar which means the 2009 roadway construction season is right around the corner. [The Illinois Department of Transportation \(IDOT\) and additional state safety partners](#) are participating in National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 6-10, 2009. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inception of the week which is held to bring national attention to motorist and worker safety in work zones. With the recent passage of President Obama's economic recovery package that included highway repair and construction, Illinois motorists could see the most active construction season in recent memory.



National Work Zone Awareness Week  
April 6-10, 2009



The safety message being utilized in Illinois to promote work zone safety is:

***"See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives!"***

IDOT wants to remind motorists that they need to obey the posted speed limit in a construction zone regardless of whether there are workers present or not. "Conditions such as narrow or reduced lanes, edge drop offs, equipment next to moving lanes of traffic and lane closures all require a reduction in speed within the work zone. This reduction in speed will not only help save a life of a worker but it may very well save your life" says Priscilla Tobias, the State Safety Engineer for IDOT. She further adds, "It is the goal of IDOT to achieve zero worker fatalities and to reduce the number of work zone crashes by five percent each year. To help achieve this goal, slow down, put away your cell phones and limit other distractions as a work zone has many different situations happening that need your undivided attention."

In 2004, the fines for speeding in a work zone were changed to a minimum \$375 for the first offense and \$1,000 plus a 90 day suspension of license for the second and subsequent offenses. This applies to whether there are workers present or not present.

Once again this year, photo speed enforcement vans will be utilized to reduce speeding in work zones or maintenance work areas. When photo speed enforcement is utilized, signs will be posted in the work zone warning speeding motorists that they are entering a work zone that is photo speed enforced. The photo speed enforcement vans are clearly marked and have a speed indicator board mounted on top displaying the motorist's speed, giving them time to reduce their speed before entering the enforcement zone. If a motorist fails to slow down after seeing their speed posted,





a digital photo is taken of the vehicle, driver and license plate and sent in the mail to the registered owner of the vehicle.

IDOT and Illinois State Police (ISP) want voluntary compliance of the laws by motorists. The best way to help save lives and not receive a ticket is to obey the posted speed limit in a work zone.

The majority of those injured and killed in work zones are motorists.

In 2007, two-thousand and seven (2,007) people were injured in work zones and of those injured, twenty-one (21) were killed. Of those twenty-one (21) killed, two (2) were workers, fifteen (15) were motorists and four (4) were pedestrians.

Please, obey the posted speed limit in work zones and limit distractions so that everyone arrives home safely.

***See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives!***

For more information on work zones and roadway safety, please visit:

<http://www.dot.il.gov/safety.html>