

Be selfish – slow down in construction zones

April 2, 2007

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FREE PRESS DRIVING COLUMNIST

Here's a friendly reminder about why you're doing yourself a favor by taking it easier – and slowing down – while driving through construction zones.

The Michigan Department of Transportation says that as many as 90% of people injured or killed in construction zone crashes are motorists or passengers – not road workers.

Today though Friday is National Work Zone Awareness Week.

MDOT is reminding drivers that speeding fines are doubled in construction zones, and that a driver who injures or kills a worker could spend up to 10 years in prison and pay \$7,500 in fines.

MDOT said the sign it began using in 2006 – “Where Workers Present 45” – has helped to slow drivers and improve safety. When you see the sign and workers are visible anywhere nearby, the speed limit becomes 45 m.p.h.

Next month, the state will release details about how the sign has improved traffic flow and overall safety in work zones.

"Work zones are a sight that motorists are familiar with, but we must all remember to be particularly careful each time we pass through one," said MDOT Director Kirk T. Steudle. "Your life and the lives of our highway workers depend on your caution."