

# State Urges Caution During Road Construction Season

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 [Indiana Department of Transportation Spokeswoman Megan Kaderavek says more than 1,000 people die annually in the nation's highway work zones.](#)

**Governor Mitch Daniels has declared April 2 - 6 as Indiana Highway Work Zone Safety Awareness Week to raise awareness about the dangers of highway work zones during what is expected to be the busiest road construction season in the state's history. The week will include a ceremony at the Indiana State Fairgrounds to remember those killed in work zones and the display of work zone safety tips on the state's highway message boards.**

## Source: Inside INdiana Business

### Press Release

Indianapolis, Ind. -- With more than \$900 million in road construction projects planned across the Hoosier state, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) expects this year will be the busiest road construction season in Hoosier history – making it more important than ever to use extreme caution in Indiana's highway work zones.

Each year, motorists and workers die in Indiana highway work zones. To raise awareness about the dangers of highway work zones, Governor Mitch Daniels has declared April 2 - 6, 2007 Indiana Highway Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. Indiana's campaign coincides with National Work Zone Awareness Week during which hundreds of cities, states and organizations across the country come together to raise awareness about work zone safety.

"Increasing awareness about hazards in work zones and educating motorists about work zone safety is the key to preventing fatalities and injuries in work zones," said INDOT Commissioner Karl B. Browning. "Thankfully, no INDOT workers were killed in work zone accidents last year and work zone accidents are down. We're making progress, but we still have a long way to go. It is crucial that motorists change their driving behaviors in work zones by slowing down and paying close attention – for the safety of themselves, their loved ones and our Indiana highway workers."

During Indiana Highway Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, INDOT will conduct a public outreach campaign targeting motorists. More than 100 people, including Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, are expected to gather at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Midway Lot at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3 for a public event remembering those killed in work zones. Attendees will hear from family members of highway workers killed in work zones last year and walk through two full-size mock work zones. In addition, the state's highway message boards will display a different work zone safety tip each day, all Indiana radio stations will be asked to broadcast work zone safety public service announcements and other public events will be held at several locations around the state.

Across the country, thousands of men, women and children are killed or injured in work zone crashes each year. Four out of five people killed in work zone accidents are either drivers or passengers. Nationally, three people die in work zone accidents each day, and someone is injured in a work zone accident every nine minutes. In Indiana, 14 people were killed and 686 were injured in work zones last year.

Motorists making their way around the Hoosier State this road construction season are asked to be on the look out for orange barrels and reduce speeds in work zones. Many work zone accidents can be prevented if drivers pay attention and obey the signs while traveling through highway work zones. INDOT urges motorists to drive safely by following these tips:

- 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. If you're speeding, you may encounter slowed or stopped traffic within seconds.
- Don't tailgate. Maintain a safe distance on all sides of your vehicle.
- Minimize distractions. The three C's – cell phones, CDs and coffee – are the primary causes of driver inattention.
- Plan ahead. Expect delays and allow extra travel time. Select an alternate route if you are running late.

Source: Indiana Department of Transportation