

Prep for National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

10 safety tips

News Journal staff report

MANSFIELD -- The Richland County Safe Communities Coalition is reminding drivers that with spring weather comes renewed construction on roadways. National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, April 2 to 6, is an opportunity to remember the following safety tips in work zones:

- **SLOW DOWN:** Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes.
- **DON'T TAILGATE:** The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision. So, don't tailgate.
- **SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN VEHICLE, WORKERS AND EQUIPMENT:** Keep a safe distance between yourself, all construction equipment and workers who may not be paying attention to traffic.
- **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS:** The warning signs are there to help you and other 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 is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
- **STAY ALERT:** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving in a work zone.
- **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC.** 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 barge in.
- **PLAN AND UPDATE:** Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time. Check radio and TV reports for traffic patterns, especially if you're in a hurry.
- **BE PATIENT AND 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.
- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED:** Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.