



SAFER ROADS SAVE LIVES

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## **HOLIDAY TRAVELERS CAN EXPECT ROADWAY WORK ZONES ON THIS WEEKEND'S "TO-DO" LIST**

*Fredericksburg, Va.* – As the 2005 summer travel season officially begins this coming Memorial Day weekend, so does the beginning of another busy construction season focused on repairing, maintaining and upgrading America's roadways.

"We're asking motorists this holiday season to pay particularly close attention when they see workers and orange roadway devices and warnings, such as signs, cones and drums on our roadways, all of which signify roadway work zones," said Roger Wentz, executive director of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), who added, "Motorists can expect a roadway work zone about every 50 miles they travel."

Every year, approximately 1,020 people are killed in roadway work zones<sup>1</sup>. The majority of those fatalities are motorists. Causes of crashes usually involve in-vehicle distractions, sudden stops, improper lane changes, or changes in traffic patterns within work zones. Most crashes are rear-end collisions that result in costly property damage.

ATSSA encourages motorists to take some simple steps when approaching roadway work zones. These include:

***Staying alert, dedicating full attention to the roadway, and what lies ahead.***

***Paying close attention to roadway workers and their equipment in the roadway.***

***Not tailgating, speeding, or changing lanes.***

***Expecting the unexpected in work zones.***

"We're simply asking motorists to be patient in work zones," said Wentz. "All summer long, men and women will be out on our roadways, working to make them safer and more convenient for everyone."

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<sup>1</sup> Fatality Analysis Reporting System Web-Based Encyclopedia, Persons Killed in Construction/Maintenance Zones By Roadway Function Class and Person Type, 1999-2003 (inclusive) average, <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/main.cfm>