



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2001

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WORK ZONE SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAY WEEKEND
Roadway Safety Group Offers Safety Tips to Save Lives in Work Zones

Fredericksburg, Va. – Motorists with travel plans this Memorial Day weekend can expect to encounter numerous work zones on the nation’s roadways. Greater numbers of work zones are the result of billions of federal dollars set aside to rebuild and maintain the aging highway system, the majority of which was constructed in the 1950s.

“Motorists can expect a work zone about every 50 miles they travel, even more so in metropolitan areas,” said Roger Wentz, executive director of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA).

Unfortunately, with roadwork already underway across the country, the number of work zone accidents and fatalities continues to rise. Recent statistics reveal that nearly 900 people die annually in work zones. It should be noted that motorists make up the majority of that figure.

“Motorists traveling in unfamiliar areas over the holiday weekend should be alert and obey the posted speed limits and signs in roadway work zones. The most common incident involves rear-end collisions. These can be avoided by greater driver care and attention in work zones,” Wentz said.

ATSSA urges all motorists to consider the following safety tips not only during the upcoming holiday weekend, but also throughout the year when they see orange signs, cones and barrels on the roadway, all of which signify a work zone ahead:

- Slow to posted limits and follow directions posted on signs and arrowboards.
- Avoid in-vehicle distractions, such as cellular phone usage and onboard navigation systems.
- Stay in lane and do not pass other vehicles in a work zone.
- Maintain a suitable distance between vehicles to allow for a safe stop if necessary.
- Expect the unexpected in a work zone. This includes people and heavy equipment.