



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 10, 2003**

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### **Work Zone Awareness Event to Focus on Roadway Work Zone Safety & Motorists**

*Fredericksburg, Va.* – With the beginning of another season of highway construction fast approaching, transportation agencies and others across the country are planning events in April to observe National Work Zone Awareness Week (April 6-12). Since the program's inception in 1999, a week has been set aside each year in April to focus on the growing number of fatalities and injuries that occur each year in roadway work zones.

In 2001, the latest year for which statistics on work zone injuries and fatalities are available<sup>1</sup>, over 1,000 people were reported killed in work-zone-related crashes. Surprisingly, the majority of those killed in work zones were motorists – not the workers.

The Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), and numerous other roadway safety and construction groups will participate in the 2003 national work zone awareness event on Tues., April 8, from 10 – 11 a.m. at "Freedom Plaza" in Washington, D.C. The hour-long event is open to the public.

"This year we will stress the danger to motorists," said ATSSA's Executive Director Roger Wentz. "Most people do not realize motorists are at the highest risk in work zones. Awareness events across the country, like the one planned in Washington, D.C. on April 8, help get this message out to the motoring public. The goal of this event – and others like it across the country – is to save lives on our nation's roadways."

As motorists observe "orange signs" when they approach a roadway work zone, Wentz suggests:

- Staying alert and giving full attention to the roadway, signs and work zone workers.
- Turning on headlights so workers and other drivers can see you.
- Never tailgate or speed, and always slow to the posted limits, even if workers are not immediately visible.
- Never change lanes in work zones.
- Minimize distractions in vehicles such as cellular phones and onboard navigation systems.
- Always expect the unexpected in a roadway work zone.
- Be patient. Roadway work zones are necessary to improve the roads and make them safer.

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**(On the web: [www.atssa.com](http://www.atssa.com), "Public Information" link, click on "NWZAW")**

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics compiled and released by the National Fatality Analysis Reporting System "Web-Based"