

Alcona County Road Commission
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Road work ahead

Alcona County Road Commission crews are gearing up for the road construction season and will use the National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is April 3 through 7, as the official start of the season.

The event, usually held the first week of April each year, is a national campaign sponsored by American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The campaign is designed to increase public awareness of work zone safety.

“As we get our equipment ready and start planning for road projects, we can’t overlook the importance of work zone safety,” observes Road Commission Board Chairman Richard Karsen Sr. “We want to make sure our employees are as safe as possible as they work among moving traffic. That’s why we have jumped on the National band wagon with our own awareness campaign.”

Road Commission crews will get a refresher course on work zone signing and traffic control and will also be trained on new requirements instituted since last year’s season. According to statistics quoted by the ATSSA, nearly 900 people are killed in work zones each year. “We don’t want to be part of that statistic,” says Karsen.

Much thought and study has gone into handling of traffic within a work zone to ensure the safety of both the motorist and the road construction worker. As frustrating as road construction work zones are, it is important that the construction work zone signing and rules be observed.

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In fact, in Michigan, it's the law and ignoring it means doubled fines for speeding in work zones and additional points against your driver license. In addition, in 2001, Michigan put into effect Public Act 103, known as "Andy's Law", creating the penalties of up to one year in prison for injuring and up to 15 years in prison for killing a highway construction or maintenance worker.

Alcona County Road Commission crews ask for motorists' cooperation and patience as they encounter road improvement projects this season.