

Work zone safety seminar Tuesday

The county Department of Public Works will be hosting a Work Zone Safety Seminar on Tuesday in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park. The seminar is open to the public, space permitting. Interested attendees should contact Howard Weissberg at 410-222-4052.

There will be two sessions held, one from 8 to 11 a.m. and the other from noon to 3 p.m. The afternoon will be a repeat of the morning session.

The seminar will cover topics related to the safe operation of work zones from the perspective of the worker, the motorists and enforcement. The intended audience is work zone personnel, motorists, particularly newer and older drivers and law enforcement personnel. Topics to be covered include an overview of work zones, their design and operation, driver education and enforcement techniques.

Juan M. Morales, a professional engineer, of J. M. Morales & Associates will teach this class. Mr. Morales has extensive experience in developing work zone courses and is an industry expert in traffic and work zone safety.

The seminar is being held in conjunction with the eighth annual National Work Zone Awareness Week, which takes place April 2 to 6. This year's theme, "Signs of Change," refers to the roadway advisory signs that warn motorists of the potential hazards found in roadway work zones, and conveys the message that variance from the routine in itself requires increased awareness.

Lead agencies for the national event are the American Traffic Safety Services Association, the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Support agencies include the American Road and Transportation Builders and Maryland State Highway Administration.

There were 1,074 work zone fatalities in the United States in 2005. The vast majority of these fatalities are motorists, not the workers themselves.

"Work zones are part of the American landscape. They are here to stay as our roadways undergo continued maintenance and upgrades," said ATSSA President Peter Speer. "We conduct this event every year to encourage motorists to slow down, be patient, be aware and expect the unexpected."

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