



Driving in Highway Construction

HS02-001D (8-07)

A 5-Minute Safety Training Aid

Summer. Vacations. Road construction. Combine heat, driving stress, and long stretches of highway under construction and you have a recipe for extreme driving hazards for motorists and road workers alike.

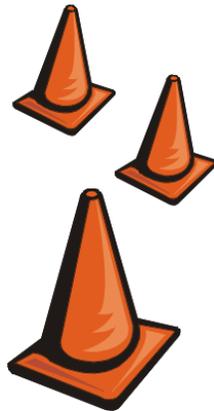
The Cone Zones are those portions of the highways marked by cones, barrels, and signs where road construction is taking place. Even though they are marked and signposted as areas where motorists must slow down and drive with extra caution, many drivers speed up to get through the construction area as quickly as possible.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) reports that fatalities in highway construction work zones increased to 192 in 2002, up from 140 in 2001. Most fatalities occur during the summer and on weekdays. The number one cause of death and injury in highway construction work zones is speeding traffic.

Whether you are traveling for work or pleasure, consider the following safety tips when driving through the Cone Zone:

Plan ahead and drive an alternative route whenever possible.

- Watch for the orange and black signs that give warnings and information.
- Slow down.
- Pay attention.
- Don't distract yourself with cell phones, navigation systems or radios/music systems.
- Respect the posted speed limits.
- Stay alert and increase your following distance behind other vehicles.
- Slow down.
- Be patient, cautious, and courteous.
- Use correct merging techniques when changing lanes.
- Use your turn signals.
- Turn on your lights to make your vehicle more visible.



- Watch for advance warning signs and postings.
- Respond promptly to flaggers and road workers.
- Stay in your lane.
- Be extra cautious near drop offs (they can cause you to lose control).
- Avoid abrupt driving maneuvers.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Turn on your emergency flashers if you must come to a full stop.
- Never respond to road ragers (give them plenty of space).
- Give road workers an extra "brake".
- Above all, slow down.



Remember, traffic fines double in construction work zones when workers are present.

Road and maintenance workers are doing their best to minimize motorist inconvenience. No matter how it seems to the motorist, road workers and flaggers are striving to improve traffic safety conditions, and it is up to the driver to be alert, aware, and responsive.

Summer need not signal rising fatality rates on the highways if travelers and workers in the Cone Zone practice care, courtesy, safety and patience. Follow the Cone Zone safety tips.

Remember, practice safety, don't learn it by accident.