



“I JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO NORMAL STUFF. DRIVING AGAIN, PLAYING WITH MY SON, TAKING HIM FISHING. I WANT TO GET BACK TO LIFE AGAIN.”

SCOTT HANSEN

Wisconsin road maintenance worker and crash survivor

Right now, in one of our 72 counties, somewhere over our 114,000 miles of roads, there are people working and driving in a Wisconsin work zone. They all deserve to be safe, including you.

Help us all be safer in the zone.

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SAFER IN THE ZONE

KNOW WHAT TO DO IN WISCONSIN'S WORK ZONES



RECOGNIZING WORK ZONES

Major road construction that lasts for weeks and weeks. Emergency vehicles at the side of the road. A snowplow flashing its warning lights. The everyday garbage pickup. In Wisconsin, they're all work zones.

Any time people are working in a street or highway near traffic, drivers and workers are at risk. Being able to identify the work zones up ahead can save lives.

So learn the signs of a work zone: flashing lights, utility or emergency vehicles, orange signs, flags, barrels and cones. And, of course, people.

KNOW THE SIGNS



Right lane ends

Merge carefully. Don't risk everyone's safety by forcing your way into the line at the last minute.



Flagger ahead

Slow down and be prepared to stop. A real person is out on the road.



Two-way traffic

Be alert. One travel lane means traffic will be right next to you.



Road work in 1500 feet

Slow down. At 60 mph, the work zone is just 17 seconds away.

DRIVING IN WORK ZONES

To protect themselves and others, drivers need to slow down whenever they see flashing lights, or move over, if possible, to leave the lane beside the work zone open. In some construction areas, lowered speed limits are posted and must be obeyed at all times.

Remember, when you enter a work zone, be patient. Worrying about the time and traffic won't get you anywhere faster. Instead, slow down and pay attention to your surroundings. These tips can help you get in and out of a work zone safely:

Don't fool around. Eliminate distractions like eating, drinking, talking on the phone, or fiddling with electronic devices.

Expect the unexpected. Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and vehicles may be working on or near the road.

Slow down. A car traveling 60 mph travels 88 feet per second, and the faster you go the longer it takes to stop.

Give yourself room. Rear-end collisions are the most common work zone crashes, so don't tailgate. Allow about three seconds of braking distance.

Look for signs. Orange, diamond-shaped signs usually give you ample warning of lane closings, construction areas, and flaggers and other workers ahead.

Be patient. If you don't see workers, that doesn't mean they're not there. Observe the signs until you see one that says you've left the work zone.

Plan ahead. Leave early or map out an alternate route. Find the latest road conditions and work zone news at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel.

Follow the law. Slow down and move over, if possible, when you see flashing lights.

PAYING FOR WORK ZONE CARELESSNESS

In Wisconsin, we take work zone safety seriously. The penalties for careless driving are steep.

IT CAN COST YOU MONEY

A normal speeding ticket can be expensive, but that's nothing compared to traffic violations made in the zone. In a work zone, penalties are doubled—and fines usually increase every year.

IT CAN COST YOU TIME

The consequences for injuring or killing someone in a work zone are especially serious. Careless drivers may face thousands of dollars in fines and up to 3 1/2 years in prison if they injure someone in a work zone. The fines for vehicular manslaughter are even higher, as are the prison terms—as many as 10 years. These punishments may increase if the driver was intoxicated or a repeat offender.

IT CAN COST YOUR LIFE

The greatest cost of irresponsible driving isn't calculated in dollars or years. Wisconsin sees nearly 2,000 work zone crashes a year. Sometimes, people die. And those tragedies change the lives of everyone left behind—workers, drivers and passengers, family and friends.

The fact is, people who work along Wisconsin's roads are extremely vulnerable. But not every crash in the zone involves workers. In reality, drivers and their passengers are the most common work zone fatalities.

Driving safely protects people on the road and the people in your own car. Driving safely protects you. So follow the rules, follow the law. **And be safer in the zone.**