

SAFER IN THE ZONE

OVERVIEW

Description

The Safer in the Zone video assists in teaching Driver Education students about safe driving in Work Zones. The video emphasizes the real consequences of collisions in the Work Zone.

Safer in the Zone contains stories of how collisions in Work Zones have changed the lives of three people. Students meet a highway commissioner, Ernie Winters, who had a maintenance worker killed while on the job; a worker, Scott Hansen, who lost his legs after being hit in a Work Zone; and a police officer, Tim Johnson, who was hit and injured while working. Included in the video is the "What Have I Done?" commercial, a realistic dramatization of a terrible collision in a Work Zone.

The lesson involves familiarizing students with Work Zones. It begins by suggesting topics before the video to effectively engage them in the viewing. After the video, it continues with discussion topics that encourage maximum participation. The lesson attempts to establish an emotional connection between the students and the true stories featured in the video, thereby affecting their behavior while driving in Work Zones.

From 1997 through 2006 there have been 19,431 crashes and 11,193 crash-related injuries in Work Zones across Wisconsin.

Goals

1. Learn how to recognize a Work Zone.
2. Learn how to drive safely through a Work Zone.
3. Learn the consequences of dangerous driving in Work Zones.

Duration

10-15 Minutes

Between 2002 and 2006 70 people have died in Work Zone collisions across Wisconsin. Most of them were drivers.

Materials

Safer in the Zone DVD, DVD Player, and Television
Questions & Answers sheets
Wisconsin Motorist's Handbook
Course Textbook

PROCEDURE

Introduction

Start off by introducing the subject of Work Zone safety. Make sure to consult any applicable materials in the Wisconsin Motorist's Handbook and the course textbook that concern Work Zone safety or driving with distractions.

Get the most impact from the video, and use a nondescript and simple introduction. Refer to the following example:

"Our video today, Safer in the Zone, contains a variety of stories about how inattentive driving has affected road workers in Wisconsin. The stories are true, and the people are real. The video emphasizes actual consequences of Work Zone collisions and how they are ultimately preventable. The video is only a few minutes long, so - just like when you're driving - pay attention."

In 2004 alone, there were 26 crash-related fatalities in Wisconsin's Work Zones. Ernie Winter's coworker, Dennis Roesler, was one of them.

Preparation

1. Have your students discuss any Work Zones that they have passed through recently.
2. Have your students discuss any experiences they have, first hand or otherwise, with crashes.
3. Ask your students to find at least one interesting detail in the video.
4. Ask your students to take notes on how to drive safely in the Work Zone.

Video discussion

1. Have your students discuss what they think is interesting about the video.
2. Handout the Questions & Answers sheet to generate more discussion.
3. Be prepared to elaborate on the discussion.

Summary

Review with the class the consequences of dangerous driving in Work Zones, and how to recognize and drive safely through them. Respond to any additional questions that your students may have.

From 1997 to 2006 the number of fatalities in Work Zone collisions in Wisconsin has increased by 40%.

Evaluation

To raise awareness of Work Zone safety, you may want to evaluate your students' understanding of the lesson content. You can assess their knowledge in a variety of ways, including: short-answer questions involving your students' own experiences with Work Zones, and a required test that contains questions dealing with Work Zone safety.



QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

Q: What is a Work Zone?

A:

Q: What makes Work Zones identifiable?

A:

Q: Why is it important to drive safely in Work Zones?

A:

Q: What are a driver's expected actions while in a Work Zone?

A:

Q: What does the law require drivers to do when entering a Work Zone?

A:

Q: What is the penalty for speeding in a Work Zone?

A:

Q: What is the penalty for injuring or killing someone in a Work Zone?

A:

Q: Who is at greatest risk in Work Zones?

A:

QUESTIONS + ANSWERS

Q: What is a Work Zone?

A: A Work Zone is an area in a street or highway where people are working.

Q: What makes Work Zones identifiable?

A: Work Zones are sections of road containing anything along the lines of garbage trucks, snowplows, salt trucks, tow trucks, police vehicles, ambulances, fire trucks, utility vehicles, small to large construction areas, orange signs, flags, barrels or cones, any sort of flashing light, and, most importantly, people.

Q: Why is it important to drive safely in Work Zones?

A: While large fines may inhibit dangerous driving in these areas, there is more than money at risk. The safety of drivers and workers is threatened. Workers are people. The respect for human life is imperative when driving, especially in Work Zones.

Q: What are a driver's expected actions while in a Work Zone?

A: When entering the Work Zone, be cautious, alert, and aware of the surroundings. A good way to stay focused is to eliminate any distractions like eating, drinking, talking on the phone, and fiddling with music. Merging early into appropriate lanes, allowing for ample space between vehicles, and being patient are also great things to do in the Work Zone.

Q: What does the law require drivers to do when entering a Work Zone?

A: If an emergency vehicle, a tow truck, a road maintenance vehicle, or any machinery or vehicle used in road construction is displaying lights, the law requires drivers to move into the lane not closest to the vehicle or machinery and to slow down to a safe speed until completely past the vehicle or machinery.

Q: What is the penalty for speeding in a Work Zone?

A: While normal speeding tickets are expensive, tickets given in Work Zones are doubled. These fines usually increase annually.

Q: What is the penalty for injuring or killing someone in a Work Zone?

A: In Wisconsin, the penalty for reckless driving may reach up to a \$10,000 fine, 3 1/2 years in prison, or both. Negligent vehicular manslaughter may be punishable by a \$25,000 fine, 10 years in prison, or both. These punishments can increase in size and length depending upon if the driver was intoxicated or a repeat offender. Again, fines usually increase annually, and those fines of crimes that occur in a Work Zone will double.

Q: Who is at greatest risk in Work Zones?

A: Surprisingly, drivers and occupants are statistically much more likely to die in Work Zone collisions than workers. Not every Work Zone collision involves workers, but all involve drivers. It's important to stay alert in Work Zones for the safety of workers and drivers.