

# NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

## WORK ZONE SAFETY: DRIVE LIKE YOU WORK HERE

April 8–12, 2019



### Work Zone Awareness Campaign

Since 2000, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and its partners have sponsored National Work Zone Awareness Week, an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones.

Work zones play a key role in maintaining and upgrading our Nation's roadways. Unfortunately, daily changes in traffic patterns, narrowed rights-of-way, and other construction activities often create a combination of factors resulting in crashes, injuries, and fatalities. These crashes also cause excessive delays, especially given the constrained driving environment.

Each year, National Work Zone Awareness Week brings attention to these safety, mobility, and constructability issues.

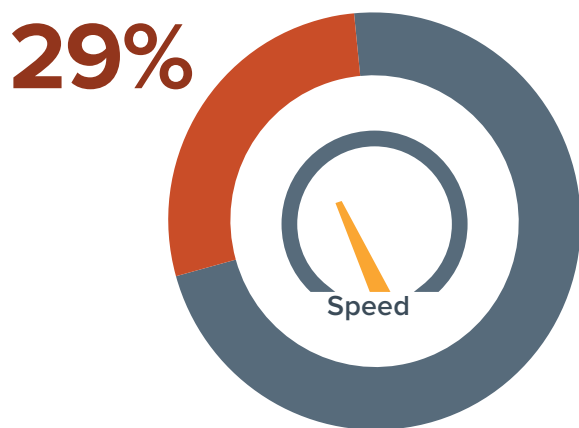
The key message is that, as a driver, you must use extra caution in work zones to keep yourself and others safe. In short:

**Drive like you work here.**

### Speed and Safety in Work Zones

- Speeding endangers everyone on the road, particularly in work zones. Speeding drivers are less likely to respond to traffic control devices or safely navigate the roadway conditions, lane closures, lane shifts, rough surfaces, and other conditions that are common in work zones. To stay safe, you should always slow down and proceed with caution whenever you see signs of highway work.




Speed is a contributing factor in almost **29 percent** of 2017 fatal work zone crashes.<sup>†</sup>



### Safety Tips for Driving in Work Zones

- **Plan ahead.** Work zones account for an estimated 10 percent of overall congestion and nearly 24 percent of unexpected freeway delays.\* Expect delays, plan for them, and leave early to reach your destination on time. When you can, avoid work zones altogether by using alternate routes.
- **Obey road crews and signs.** When approaching a work zone, watch for cones, barrels, signs, large vehicles, or workers in bright-colored vests to warn you and direct you where to go.
- **Slow down.** Look for signs indicating the speed limit through the work zone. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you and follow the posted speed limit.
- **Move over.** Most state move-over laws apply when passing work crews and official vehicles parked on the shoulder with flashing warning lights.
- **Avoid distractions.** Keep your eyes on the road and off your phone.
- **Watch for sudden stoppages.** In 2017, 25 percent of fatal work zone crashes involved rear-end collisions.<sup>†</sup>
- **Watch for large vehicles.** Don't make sudden lane changes in front of trucks that are trying to slow down. In 2017, 50 percent of fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses occurred on rural roadways.<sup>†</sup> Between 2013 and 2017, fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks increased by 43 percent.<sup>§</sup>

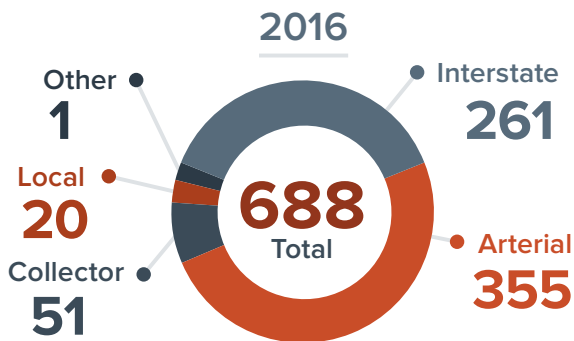
Visit the FHWA Work Zone Management website at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/workzones](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/workzones) and the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse website at [www.workzonesafety.org](http://www.workzonesafety.org) for access to resources, guidance, and training.

TOTAL WORK ZONE FATALITIES by transportation mode <sup>††</sup>		2016	2017	% Change
	Drivers and passengers	782	799	+2%
	Pedestrians and bicyclists	652	658	+1%
	Others Occupants of a Non-Motor Vehicle Transport Device and Persons on Personal Conveyances	125	136	+9%
		5	5	0%

## TOTAL WORK ZONE FATAL CRASHES by type of highway<sup>††</sup>

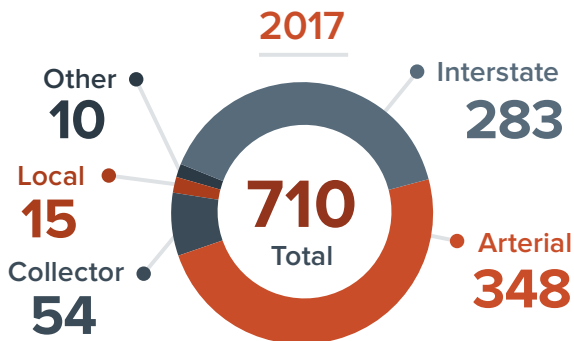
	2016	2017
	143	132

Worker fatalities in road construction sites<sup>\*\*</sup>



	2016	2017
	189	222

Fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses<sup>††</sup>



	2016	2017
	194	203

Fatal work zone crashes where speeding was a factor<sup>††</sup>

Sources:

<sup>†</sup>Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2017 Annual Report File, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). FARS data shown here are from the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

<sup>††</sup>FHWA, "Facts and Statistics—Work Zone Mobility." Available at: [https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts\\_stats/mobility.htm](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/facts_stats/mobility.htm)

<sup>‡</sup>Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2013 Final and 2017 Annual Report File, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). FARS data shown here are from the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

<sup>\*\*</sup>2016 and 2017 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, District of Columbia, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

<sup>†††</sup>Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2016 Final and 2017 Annual Report File, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). FARS data shown here are from the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Note: Figures are subject to revision, as values reported in FARS may be updated intermittently. Values shown here reflect what is reported by NHTSA as of November 2018.

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