

Keep Our Future Safe in Work Zones

What Every Young Driver Should Know!

The maze of jersey barriers, traffic cones, flaggers, flashing lights, and orange signs is a scenario that often causes confusion for drivers. Although roadway work zones are one of the most dangerous work environments, work zones aren't just dangerous for the workers; they are dangerous for all of us driving through the work zones each day. This is especially true for new young drivers. In the first three years as new drivers, 88% of all teenagers have a collision. A work zone and a new driver who hasn't seen a work zone before can create a very dangerous situation. Teen drivers are killed every three days and seven are injured each day in work zone crashes.

Young drivers are the future of our country. Here are some tips for our teens to stay safe driving in and around work zones:

- Avoid distractions such as changing radio stations, using your iPod, texting or talking on your cell phone while driving.
- Practice, practice, practice. Before you get your license, ask your parents to practice driving through a work zone. It is good practice for getting familiar about work zone speeds and changes in the roadways.
- Stay alert for work zones. Keep an eye out for workers and equipment, and expect the unexpected.
- Be alert for changes! There may be big changes between the last time you drove through the work zone and the next time you drive through the work zone.
- Turn on your car's headlights so construction zone workers can more easily see your vehicle.
- Keep a safe distance between your car and the car in front of you. Do not tailgate because you may not see an obstacle that is close by
- Follow speed limits in and around work zones.
- Don't change lanes all the time to get through traffic faster
- Be patient. Arriving safely at your destination is the most important thing you do