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**Since 2008**

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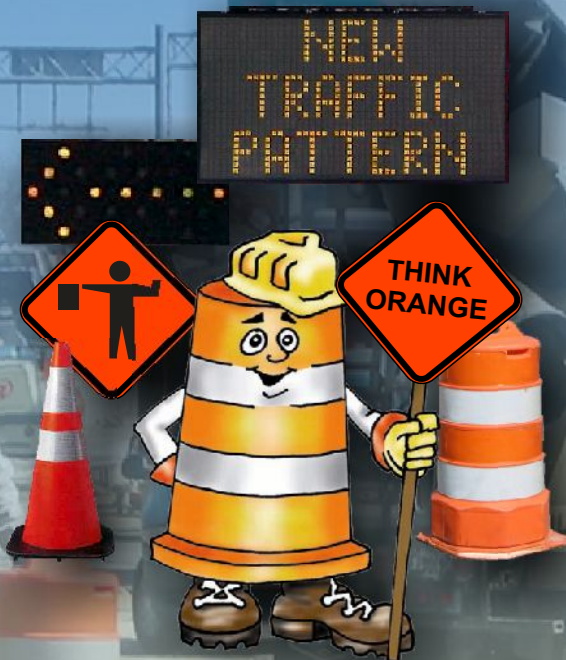


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# Work Zone Safety



***A Guide to Safe Driving  
in Maryland's Work Zones***



Maryland Department of Transportation

# Caution: Road Work Ahead . . .

# Know the Zone

Work Zone

**M**aryland continually works to enhance its world class transportation network by improving safety and mobility. That's why you're likely to encounter a number of roadway work zones while driving throughout the State. These work zones may be a result of construction, maintenance, or utility work along major and secondary roadways.



**W**ork zones are a temporary inconvenience, but they are necessary to develop improved and safer roads for everyone.

## Unexpected Conditions

**M**otorists, bicyclists and pedestrians may encounter a variety of work zone conditions, such as:

- new traffic patterns
- pavement drop-offs
- narrow lanes
- reduced sight distance
- lane shifts
- detours
- lane closures
- slow moving equipment

### Termination Area

lets traffic resume normal operation

### Activity Area

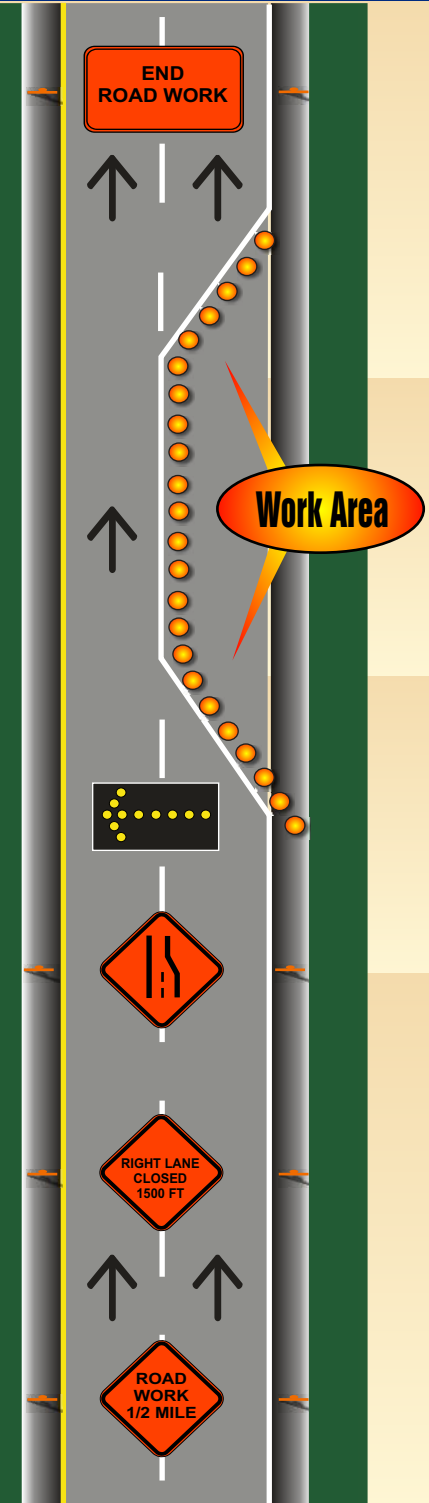
is where work takes place

### Transition Area

moves traffic out of normal path

### Advance Warning Area

tells traffic what to expect ahead





**O**range is the standard color for work zone activity. Orange signs communicate distances to work areas and the proper steps necessary to proceed safely. If you see orange signs when driving, stay alert and be prepared for unexpected driving conditions ahead.



## Did you know . . .



**W**hen traveling 55 mph, you will enter a work zone in only 19 seconds after seeing the above sign.

**E**veryone is entitled to a safe workplace. Men and women working on the roadway risk injury every day they are on the job. Respect their “office space” by . . .

## Thinking Orange!



## Walking in a Work Zone

### ◆ Select a safe path

As a pedestrian, it is safest to avoid work areas. If you do encounter a work zone, obey all work zone signs, personnel, and pavement markings. They will guide you safely through the work zone and will indicate a detour route if a sidewalk is closed.



### ◆ Don't be a "Sidewalk Superintendent"

While construction work is interesting to watch, remember that your priority is to get through the work zone safely.



## Cycling in a Work Zone

### ◆ Be predictable

Always ride with traffic. Ride so drivers can see you and predict your movements.

### ◆ Be alert

Ride defensively. Do not assume motor vehicles will yield to you even when you have the right-of-way. Obey all traffic signals and signs. Watch for road hazards around the work zone, such as potholes and debris.





# Temporary Traffic Control Devices

# Know the Signs

**W**hen traveling through a work zone, stay alert for temporary traffic control devices. These devices define the safe path through a work zone.

**Barriers**



**Flaggers**



**Temporary Traffic Signals**



**Arrow Panels**



**Temporary Pavement Markings**



**Moveable Barriers**



**Orange Channelizing Devices**



## Two-Way Traffic

Two-way traffic is traveling on a roadway that may be one-way in normal conditions. Be alert for oncoming traffic.



## Lanes Divide

Be prepared for lanes to divide.



## Flagger Ahead

Flagger ahead directing traffic. Be prepared to stop.



## Right Lane Ends

Lanes merge ahead. Be prepared to move out of the closed lane.



## Truck Crossing

Be alert for construction vehicles unexpectedly entering or exiting the roadway.



## Detour Ahead

Be prepared to take an alternate route marked by detour signs.



# Crash Zone: The Grim Facts

**A**cross the nation, nearly 1,100 people die and more than 40,000 people are injured annually as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.



**S**peeding, inattentive driving, and aggressive driving habits in merge areas are the primary causes of work zone crashes.

**F**our out of five people killed or injured in work zone crashes are inattentive drivers and their passengers.

**T**he majority of fatal work zone crashes occur on roads with speed limits of 55 mph or greater.

**N**ationwide, approximately 16% of fatalities resulting from work zone crashes are non-motorists (pedestrians and bicyclists).

## Consider the Consequences...

- Crashing in a work zone can result in increased motorist delays, damage to your vehicle, increased insurance costs and injury or even death.



- Getting a speeding ticket in a designated work zone can cost you up to **\$1,000!**

# Work Zone Safety Tips

**W**ork zones are set up with your safety in mind. Do *your* part to keep them safe.

## Stay Alert

Make safety your first priority.

## Watch Your Speed

Obey posted speed limits.

## Expect the Unexpected

Work zone conditions change constantly - be ready to react.

## Minimize Distractions

Avoid using mobile phones, changing radio stations and reaching for objects.

## Pay Close Attention

Obey work zone signs and watch for workers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

## Drive Courteously

Merge with caution, don't tailgate, and don't change lanes in a work zone.

## Respect the Flagger

Obey the flagger's directions.

## Be Patient

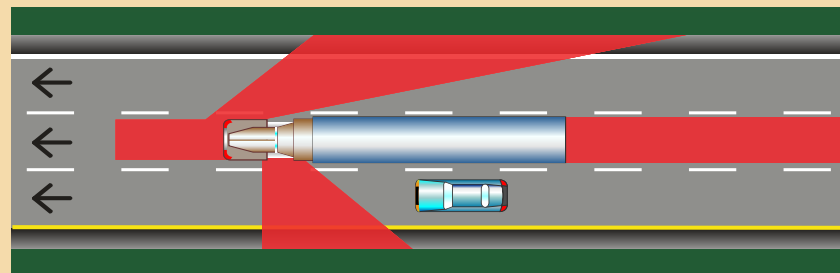
Today's work zones lead to improved safety and mobility on your roads tomorrow.

## Buckle Up

In Maryland, it's the law!



## Trucking through the Work Zone



**A**lmost 30% of all work zone crashes involve large trucks. Many of these crashes happen when motorists drive in the danger areas around a truck. These danger areas, called the **No-Zone**, are along the sides, front and rear of trucks, where cars disappear into blind spots. Do your part to share the road safely, and stay out of the **No-Zone**.



## Plan Ahead

Before hitting the road, check these sources for real-time information to help you locate where travel delays may occur due to construction activity:



[www.marylandroads.com](http://www.marylandroads.com)

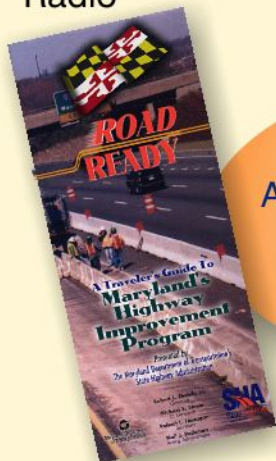
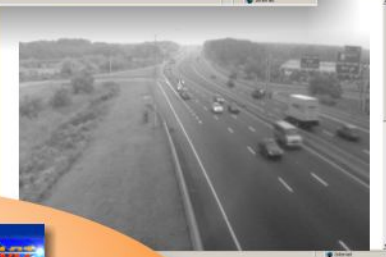
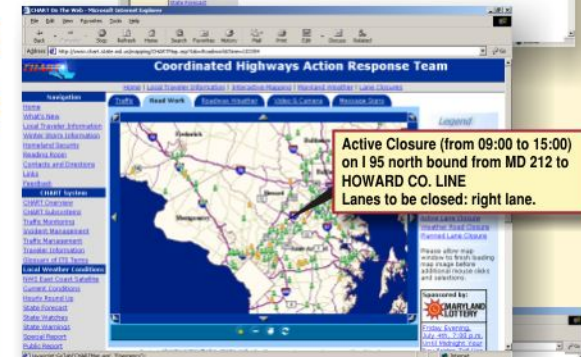
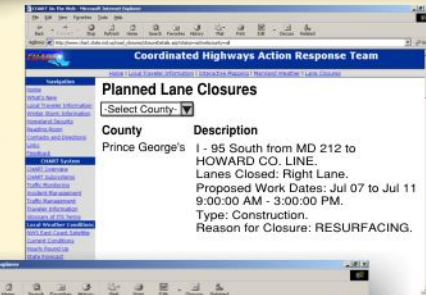
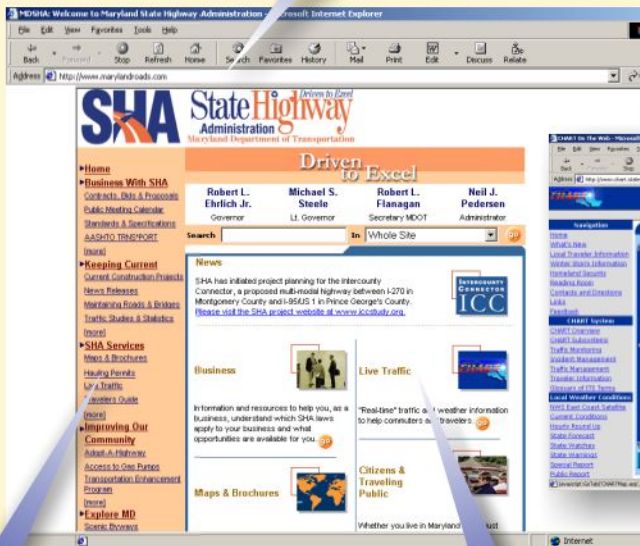
- Television
- Internet
- Telephone Hotline
- Email
- Radio
- Electronic Kiosks

You can reach your destination on time by leaving early or by taking alternate routes.

## On the Road

En-route to your destination, use these sources of travel information to help you avoid construction delays:

- In-vehicle Route Guidance
- Changeable Message Signs
- Highway Advisory Radio
- Pager
- Cell Phone
- Radio
- Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)



### ► Maps & Brochures

Access the Road Ready brochure - a list of major construction projects along Maryland State Highways.

### ► Live Traffic

Obtain real-time traffic and weather information, including active and planned lane closures, live traffic video, incident information, and weather related closures.

**What is the difference between these work zones?**



**The difference is you.**

**Drive safely in work zones.**

Work zones are engineered with your safety in mind. Do your part to keep them safe - protect our workers and yourself by **THINKING ORANGE!** Expect the unexpected and be patient in work zones.

**Drive Safely. Stay Alert. Stay Alive.**

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