

STREET SMARTS

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

Driving in a construction zone greatly increases your risk of becoming involved in an accident. The lanes often are narrower. Traffic patterns may be different. Construction vehicles are entering and exiting the roadway. There is also a lot of activity that can distract your attention.

It's not business as usual when driving through a construction zone. Your safety, as well as that of the workers and other drivers, requires you to be extra vigilant and to use your street smarts to handle any out-of-the-ordinary driving situation that could arise.

Here are some recommendations to help ensure your safe passage.

IN THE ZONE

- ▶ Drive the posted **work-zone speed limit**.
- ▶ Stay alert and pay close attention to signs and flaggers.
- ▶ Turn on your headlights if signs instruct you to do so.
- ▶ Maintain a **safe distance** from other vehicles. Don't tailgate.
- ▶ Give trucks more room if the roads are narrow.
- ▶ Use **four-way flashers** when stopped or driving slowly.

- ▶ Always buckle up.
- ▶ **Avoid distractions**, and give your full attention to the road.
- ▶ Expect the unexpected.
- ▶ **Be patient.**

CONSTRUCTIVE CONSEQUENCES

In addition to putting construction workers and others at risk, unsafe driving in a construction zone can cost you your license and a hefty fee.

Motorists caught driving 11 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit in an active work zone automatically will lose their license for 15 days. Drivers who are involved in a crash in an active work zone and are convicted for failing to drive at a safe speed will face the same consequence.

Fines for certain traffic violations, including speeding, driving under the influence and failing to obey traffic-control devices, are *doubled* for active work zones. You also can get up to five years of additional jail time if convicted of homicide by vehicle for a crash that occurred in an active work zone.

For more comprehensive information and resources, visit
commuteinfo.org

This important safety message has been sponsored by:

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DONT BE A **ROAD ZOMBIE**

*Help keep others safe while also helping the environment.
Pass this card along to a friend, family member or fellow driver.*