

See Orange. Slow Down. Save Lives!

is our commitment to keep workers and motorists safe in work zones.

Join us in our pledge to increase awareness and promote safe driving in work zones by displaying an Orange Ribbon. Together we can make our roadways a safer place to commute and work.



For more information on work zone safety, please visit our website at:

www.dot.il.gov/workzone/workzone.html

State of Illinois

Illinois Department of Transportation



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SAVE LIVES!**



Work Zone Fatalities

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	44	38	25	29	21
Workers	5	2	1	1	2



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The Facts

Each year, over 7000 crashes occur in work zones. Dozens of people are killed every year in work zone related crashes. Since 2003 there has been a significant reduction in work zone fatalities. Even though the number of people killed in work zones decreased, the number is still clearly too high. IDOT is committed to increasing work zone safety awareness, balancing the need to maintain both worker and motorist safety with the need to keep commercial and private traffic flowing safely through work zones. We want you to get where you are going safely!



The Law

Legislation Passed in 2004

Increased Fines: Speeding in a work zone is against the law. The Illinois State Police has a Zero Tolerance policy for motorists caught speeding in a work zone.

Penalties for speeding are as follows:

- \$375 for first time offense
- \$1000 for subsequent offense(s)
- 90 day suspension of license

Photo Enforcement: The Illinois State Police can now take pictures of motorists speeding in work zones. This photo speed enforcement law allows pictures to be taken of the front and rear license plates, along with a picture of the driver. With this system, tickets will be mailed to the registered owners.

A construction zone should not be an end-zone. We need your cooperation to make the Work Zone Safety campaign a success!

Work Zone Safety Efforts

- Orange Ribbon Campaign:
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- Work zone warning signs
- Changeable message boards
- Public service announcements
- Increased Illinois State Police ground and air patrols
- Increased fines for work zone speeding
- Truck-mounted crash cushions
- To help reduce the alarming number of flagger injuries and fatalities in work zones, IDOT has used newly-developed remote flagger workstations which are controlled by a flagger using a remote to change the STOP/SLOW paddle. This allows the flagger to stand away from the flagger station off the roadway in a safer location. The 7-foot height and flashing light also improves visibility.
- If your travels take you through an Illinois construction zone you will probably see this sign (*see right*) posted on the roadway. This sign will serve as a reminder to motorists that if you injure or kill a worker in a construction zone you could face up to \$10,000 in fines and 14 years in jail.



In The Zone

- Typically, when workers are present the speed limit is 45 mph, unless otherwise marked.
- When workers are not present, you are still required to follow the posted workzone speed limit.
- **Slow down** - Reduced speeds are applied when normal conditions do not exist for the motorist (narrow lanes, changing conditions, edge drop offs). Posted speed limits throughout work zones are not a suggestion-they are the law! There is a Zero Tolerance policy against violations in work zones and fines have increased.
- **Follow the signs** - Arrow boards and flaggers are not there to make your life more difficult, they are there to help guide you safely through the work zone.
- **Don't follow too close** - One of the most common crashes in a work zone is a rear-end collision. Drivers should make sure they can safely stop their vehicle if traffic backs up.
- **Be patient** - Most of the time work zones require lane closures. Remain alert in case you need to slow down or stop due to traffic or construction work.
- **Turn on your headlights** - Workers and other motorists driving through the work zone need to see your vehicle. Large truck operators should use emergency flashers to warn trailing motorists that they are slowing down.

