

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Patrol reminds motorists to slow down in work zones for National Work Zone Awareness Week

COLUMBUS- Spring is here and road improvement projects around the state are scheduled to begin. The Ohio State Highway Patrol, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Governor's Highway Safety Office, reminds drivers to slow down and be aware of their surroundings while driving through work zones this season. The Ninth Annual National Work Zone Awareness Week will run today through April 11.

The Patrol is working to enhance safety in work zones across the state through increased enforcement by Patrol Troopers and Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspectors.

Last year, there were a total of 5,845 crashes in work zones on Ohio roadways. Of those crashes, 13 were fatal and 1,404 (24%) involved injuries. Road crews were present in the work zones for more than one-third (36%) of the crashes. Three in five (62%) work zone crashes in 2007 took place in daylight and on dry roads.

Counties having the highest percentage of fatal and injury crashes in 2007 occurring in work zones include Franklin (13.5%); Hamilton (11.8%); Montgomery (10.4%); Cuyahoga (10.0%); and Summit (7.3%). Twenty counties had no fatal or injury crashes in work zones in 2007.

The most common cause of work zone crashes last year were following too closely, or failing to maintain assured clear distance.

The Patrol recommends the following safety tips for driving in work zones:

- Slow down and minimize distractions
- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle the vehicle in front of you
- Pay attention to signs, obey road crew flaggers and do not change lanes
- Expect delays
- Be patient and stay calm

To view construction projects in your area visit <http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/links.htm>

The Patrol continues to ask motorists to call 1-877-7 PATROL to report impaired or aggressive drivers.

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