



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JIM BOXOLD
SECRETARY

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Karen Smith, 850-414-4116
Karen.smith2@dot.state.fl.us

Florida Recognizes National Work Zone Awareness Week

~ Expect the Unexpected ~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is recognizing National Work Zone Awareness Week from March 23 to 27, 2015. In order to raise awareness and educate citizens on the dangers of work zones, FDOT has collaborated with partners at The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and law enforcement to drive down fatalities.

FDOT Secretary Jim Boxold said, “Florida has many infrastructure improvement projects designed to meet the growing transportation needs of Florida families, visitors and businesses. Driving in work zones requires extra caution; be alert and expect the unexpected.”

DHSMV Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes said, “Though fatalities caused by work zone crashes are decreasing, with 10 fewer deaths in 2014 than in 2013, the number of crashes is rising, and there were 2,422 crashes resulting in injuries in 2014. Every life matters and ongoing awareness is needed to ensure safety on our highways. As Florida experiences continued economic growth, projects containing work zones are increasing as well as the numbers of residents and visitors driving throughout the state, and it is vital that motorists practice safe driving behaviors in work zone areas, such as slowing down and not driving distracted.”

The National Work Zone Awareness Week began in 1999 when the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement pledging to increase public awareness of work zone safety issues through a national media campaign. Since then, awareness has continued to grow, with state agencies and other organizations sponsoring high-visibility education and outreach initiatives.

Some simple tips for improving work zone safety include:

- be alert
- slow down
- avoid distraction
- don't tailgate
- don't change lanes
- expect the unexpected

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