

VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan

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WORK ZONE SAFETY IS A TOP OF MIND PRIORITY AS ROAD CONSTRUCTION SEASON BEGINS

Orange barrels, cones and signs are popping up across the state like flowers in springtime signaling the start of a new construction season. For Michigan drivers, orange cones are a signal to be extra cautious when navigating work zones. Patience can run thin, or drivers can be tempted by distractions, but both can lead to crashes, injuries and deaths for road workers and motorists. In fact, most people killed in work zones are motorists!

For the Van Buren County Road Commission, work zone safety is a major concern. "It only takes a split second of distraction to change lives forever," said Bret Witkowski, Managing Director of the Van Buren County Road Commission. "When approaching a work zone, motorists should always slow down, follow posted signs, be alert, and remain calm. Risky driving behavior affects more than just the driver - everyone's lives and families are at stake."

"We can fix our roads and bridges safely if we all work together," added Bret Witkowski. "Work zone safety begins with workers who are dedicated to safety. If we all work together, we can achieve zero deaths on our roads and work zones!"

When driving through work zones, even the smallest mistake can be deadly. These simple tips could save your life in a work zone:

- **Expect Changes** - Work zone speed limits are usually reduced. Traffic lanes may change, and workers, vehicles or equipment may enter the traffic lane unexpectedly.
- **Minimize Distractions** - Don't use cell phones or engage in distracting activities. Lives are at stake.
- **Obey Workers and Signs** - Road crews know what is best for moving traffic safely. Follow all signs and instructions to merge, slow down or stop.
- **Don't Speed or Tailgate** - Fines double for speeding in a Michigan work zone. Slow down! Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
- **Pay Attention** - Vehicles may slow, stop, or change lanes unexpectedly. Watch for brake lights and be prepared to react to traffic.
- **Be Patient and Calm** - Work zones are a necessary step to improve our roads and make your future drive better!

Work Zones need everyone's undivided attention. Watch for our Road Commission crews, and private sector employees. **"You Play a Role in Work Zone Safety. Work with Us."**

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