



Indiana

Department of Labor

Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Transportation Incidents Are a Leading Cause of Workplace Fatalities

INDIANAPOLIS (April 8, 2013) – Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in the United States. According to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, more than 188,000 traffic collisions occurred statewide in 2011 resulting in occupant injury or property damage.

Not only is transportation safety a key issue for Hoosier motorists, but Hoosier workers who work on Indiana streets, bridges and highways are also at risk for severe injuries and death. In 2011, transportation-related incidents were the leading cause of workplace fatalities in Indiana. During that time, more than 40 Hoosier workers were killed in incidents that occurred on or on the side of roadways.

In an effort to reduce workplace transportation-related deaths, the Indiana Department of Labor has launched a statewide safety initiative to educate the public, the construction industry and the transportation industry about steps that can be taken to remain safe while on the road.

“For Hoosier families, a transportation-related incident that takes the life of a loved one is a deep loss,” IDOL Commissioner Sean M. Keefer said, “This very real loss drives the Indiana Department of Labor to seek improvements to better educate the public and enforce workplace safety in construction work zones.”

The Indiana Department of Labor urges all Hoosier motorists to exercise extreme caution when traveling on Indiana roadways and through work zones. Motorists should be sure to

- Wear safety belts at all times
- Plan ahead and have an alternative route of travel in case of construction
- Stay alert and be prepared to stop
- Expect and plan for travel delays, especially during peak commute times
- Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones
- Slow down and obey posted speed limits

- Be alert and exercise caution when workers are present
- Avoid using cell phones, tablet computers, GPS units and other mobile devices while driving
- Do not text while driving
- Maintain an appropriate distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you
- Anticipate lane shifts and merge early—do not wait until the last minute
- Do not change lanes unnecessarily
- Turn on your vehicle’s headlights so workers and other motorists can see you

“Working together, we can reduce the number and severity of transportation-related incidents in and near construction work zones,” added Keefer.

The Indiana Department of Labor also will be working with companies, associations, and industry representatives to proactively address transportation-related hazards and exposures.

Additional information on work zone safety including articles and public service announcements are available at www.in.gov/dol/workzonesafety.

About the Indiana Department of Labor:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. www.in.gov/dol

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