



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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Motorists Urged to Take Precaution in Construction Work Zones

Transportation Accidents the leading cause of worker deaths in 2012

INDIANAPOLIS (April 7, 2014) – Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death in the United States. In 2012, 33,561 people were killed on U.S. highways, an increase of more than 1,000 from 2011.

In addition, more than 50 Hoosier workers were killed in transportation-related incidents in 2012, making it the leading cause of workplace fatalities in Indiana.

In April and May, workers will be gearing up for construction season. The Indiana Department of Labor urges motorists to be extremely cautious while traveling on roadways and especially in work zones in order to protect themselves and construction workers.

“Ensuring Hoosier construction workers are safe is extremely important,” Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Rick J. Ruble said. “By working together, we can reduce the number of transportation-related incidents near construction work zones.”

Motorists are urged to:

- Be alert and exercise caution when workers are present
- Stay alert and be prepared to stop at any time
- Wear safety belts at all times
- Expect and plan for travel delays, especially during peak commute times or in areas where construction zones are present
- Plan ahead and have an alternative route of travel in case of construction
- Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones
- Slow down and obey posted speed limits
- Avoid using cell phones and other mobile devices while driving
- Do not text while driving

- Maintain an appropriate distance between vehicles
- Anticipate lane shifts and merge early
- Do not make unnecessary lane changes
- Keep your vehicle's headlights on at all times while driving so others can see you

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

Additional motor vehicle fatality statistics are available from the [U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).

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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