



Safe Trucking Through Work Zones

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Commercial Vehicle Safety Summit

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Definitions

- **Work Zone** = area of a roadway where construction, maintenance, or utility is occurring
- **Large Truck** = vehicles with gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) more than 10, 000 lbs.
- **Bus** = school buses, cross country/intercity buses, transit buses, and van-based buses with GVWR more than 10, 000 lbs.
- **Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)** = large trucks and buses





Work Zone Crash Data

- **Safety Statistics (2017):**
 - 710 fatal work zone crashes resulted in 799 fatalities
 - 222 (31%) of fatal work zone crashes involved large trucks or buses and resulted in 274 fatalities
 - 97% involve large trucks
 - 3% involve buses
- **Between 2012 and 2017, fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks and buses increased by 64 percent**

All data from the NHTSA FARS.
2012-2016 from final data files.
2017 from Annual Report File.





FMCSA Eastern Region

State	Truck-Involved Fatal Crashes	Truck-Involved Fatalities	Bus-Involved Fatal Crashes	Bus-Involved Fatalities
CT	3	4	0	0
DC	0	0	0	0
DE	1	1	0	0
MA	1	1	0	0
MD	1	1	0	0
ME	1	1	0	0
NH	0	0	0	0
NJ	0	0	0	0
NY	2	2	0	0
PA	5	6	0	0
PR	0	0	0	0
RI	0	0	0	0
VA	5	5	0	0
VT	0	0	0	0
WV	0	0	0	0
National	216	265	6	9

Source: workzonesafety.org





FHWA Efforts to Improve Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Safety in Work Zones (1 of 2)

- FHWA Work Zone Safety Grant Program:
 - American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
 - Design and Operations of Work Zones Strategies to Improve Large Truck Safety publication
 - Safe Trucking Through Work Zones brochure and PPT presentation
 - Fact sheets - coming soon!
 - Online training module-coming soon!
 - University of Wisconsin-Madison
 - Design Module on Oversize and Overweight Loads in Work Zones- coming soon!
- Large Truck Safety in Work Zones Webinars





FHWA Efforts to Improve Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Safety in Work Zones (2 of 2)

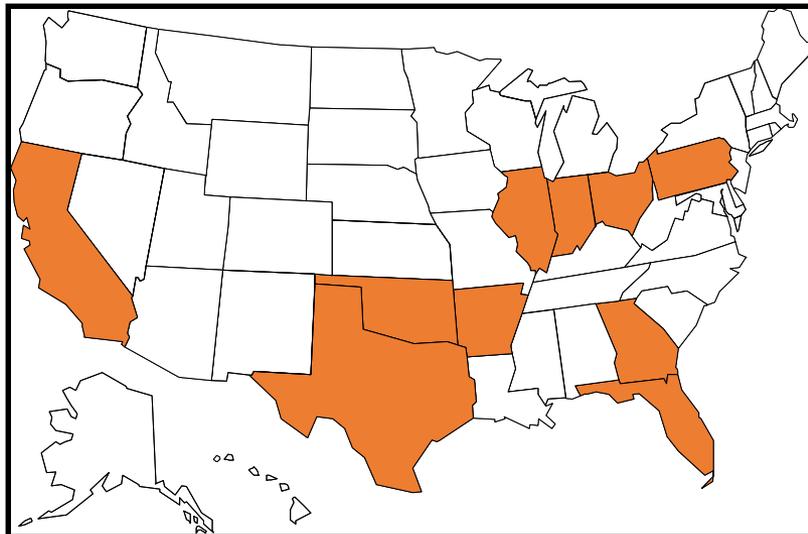
- National Symposium on Work Zones and Large Trucks
- Work Zones and Large Trucks Stakeholder Meeting
- National Work Zone Awareness Week
 - April 20-24, 2020 (Michigan)
- Work Zones and CMV Communication and Outreach Plan
- Work with Top 10 States (Virtual Roundtable and Workshop)
- Develop a Targeted Action Plan- coming soon!





Top 10 States

- **Commercial Motor Vehicles = large trucks and buses** (includes vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 lbs.)
- Texas, Florida, California, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Arkansas



Source: ICF/TTI



Safe Trucking Through Work Zones



Work Zone Safety Consortium
www.workzonesafety.org

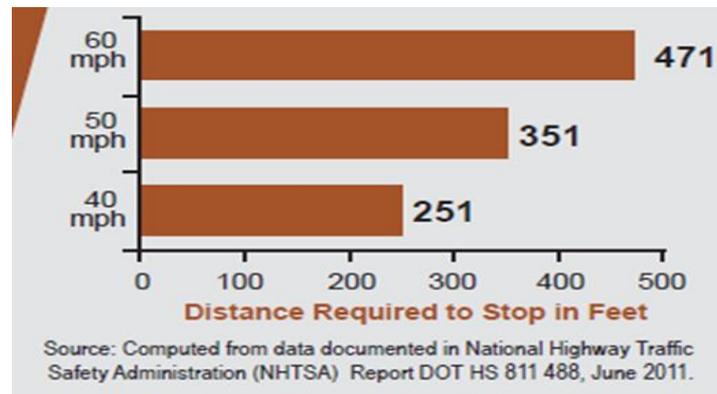


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Stopping Takes Time and Space (1 of 2)

- Depending how fast a truck is traveling, it can take more than the length of a football field to stop.
 - This length applies even in the best conditions, with good tires and dry pavement.



- At 65 MPH, the stop will take more than 7 seconds to complete.





Stopping Takes Time and Space (2 of 2)

- Stopping distances can be even greater if:
 - It is raining or snowing
 - Brakes or tires are worn
 - There is dirt or gravel on the road
 - Carrying a heavy load
 - Carrying a liquid load (especially if the tank is not completely full)
 - Traveling downhill

Be aware and expect the unexpected!





The Numbers

- **133** fatal work zone crashes occur each year in the US involving large trucks (GVW >10,000 pounds)
- A fatal work zone crash involving a large truck occurs **every 3 days** in the US
- **47%** of fatal work zone crashes on rural interstates involve large trucks
- **21%** of fatal pedestrian crashes in work zones involve large trucks
- **49%** of fatal truck-involved work zone crashes occur when a truck hits something or someone in front of them
- Driver distraction is a factor accounting for **30%** of fatal truck-involved work zone crashes.

Source: 2011 – 2013 FARS Data (Fatality Analysis Reporting System)





Common Truck Crashes in Work Zones: Where and Why (1 of 3)

- Rear-End Collisions

- Where:

- Freeways and Interstates
- 2-Lane Highways

- Why:

- Drivers are not aware or prepared for stopped or slow traffic in front of them



- Head-On Collisions

- Where:

- 2-Lane Highways

- Why:

- Drivers crossing the centerline at night
- Drivers swerving to avoid objects and into oncoming traffic





Common Truck Crashes in Work Zones: Where and Why (2 of 3)

- Right-Angle Collisions

- Where:
 - Non-freeway multi-lane roads
- Why:
 - Drivers, pull out or turn left into work spaces, intersections, and driveways without enough of a gap in traffic



- Sideswipe Collisions

- Where:
 - Freeways and Interstates
 - Other multi-lane roadways
- Why:
 - Drivers not checking for vehicles in their blind spots





Common Truck Crashes in Work Zones: Where and Why (3 of 3)

- Truck Collisions with Objects
 - Where:
 - Non-freeway multi-lane roads
 - Why:
 - Drivers traveling too fast to navigate the work zone



- **Work Zones** often have narrowed lanes and shoulders, as well as disruptions such as:
 - Slowing and stopped traffic
 - Temporary lane closures
 - Slowing and stopped traffic
 - Detours and/or flaggers
 - Law enforcement officers directing traffic
 - Work vehicles entering and exiting the work space
 - Workers walking around
- These distractions can change from day to day, creating hazards for large trucks.





Reducing Your Chance of a Work Zone Crash (1 of 2)

- Pay attention to work zone signs
- Leave enough space between you and other motorists
- Be prepared to stop or slow unexpectedly
- Expect to stop when you see a FLAGGER AHEAD sign
- If stopped or slowed in a traffic queue, consider turning on your flashers to warn traffic coming up behind you





Reducing Your Chance of a Work Zone Crash (2 of 2)

- Watch for traffic and workers going in and out of the work zone
- Get into an open lane as soon as possible at lane closures
- Be aware of motorists racing to get ahead of you or trying to turn in front of you at the last second
- Use alternative routes to avoid work zones whenever feasible





Resources

- FHWA Work Zone Management Website:
 - <http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/>
- National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse Website:
 - <https://www.workzonesafety.org/>
- Large Trucks in Work Zones Web page:
 - https://www.workzonesafety.org/work_zone_topics/heavy-vehicles/



FMCSA RESOURCES

- Visit the website – <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/work-zones-safety-tips>
- Download materials and use them at your events
 - <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/work-zone-safety-shareable-material>
 - Fact sheets, graphics, social content and a postcard

Protect Workers



Download Graphic

Suggested Social Post: A work zone is an area where road construction, maintenance or utility work takes place. Safety for crews in work zones, as well as the vehicles that travel through them, is critically important. Drivers must be on watch for workers coming in and out of work zones, including flaggers who may be directing traffic patterns. <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones> #WorkZoneSafety #OurRoads

Margin of Safety

ADD A **MARGIN OF SAFETY**



Download Graphic

Suggested Social Post: Rear-end crashes are extremely common in work zones. Maintain a safe distance from other vehicles and never tailgate. Make sure to give trucks and buses plenty of space to merge during lane changes and avoid lingering in blind spots. www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones #WorkZoneSafety #OurRoads

Stay Focused



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Suggested Social Post: Reduced speeds and sudden stops are common in work zones. Be sure to slow down and avoid distractions. Don't allow anything to take your concentration away from the road. www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones #OurRoads

Keep Your Distance



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Suggested Social Post: Narrow lanes, sudden stops & traffic pattern shifts present challenges for CMV's in work zones. Rear-end crashes in these areas are common. Never cut off a truck or bus. Always maintain space between your vehicle & the one in front of you. www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones #OurRoads

Merge Early



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Suggested Social Post: When approaching lane closures, move into the open lane as soon as possible. Be sure to pay close attention to vehicles around you that could be in your blind spot. Note that traffic patterns can change rapidly, and drivers should always follow signs and direction from flaggers. www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones #WorkZoneSafety #OurRoads

Go Slow



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Suggested Social Post: Stay alert and be on the lookout for upcoming work zones. As you approach one, slow down and pay attention to signs guiding traffic. Reduced speeds and sudden stops are common, be prepared to stop unexpectedly. Note that fines for speeding in work zones are often doubled. <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones> #WorkZoneSafety #OurRoads

Plan Ahead



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Suggested Social Post: Always research your route before you hit the road and check for upcoming work zones. When possible, avoid them completely by using any marked detours that are available. www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/tips-traveling-safely-work-zones #OurRoads





Questions?

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