

DRIVER SAFETY LETTER



NPTC
National Private Truck Council

CENTERLINE
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Work Zone Safety

May 2023

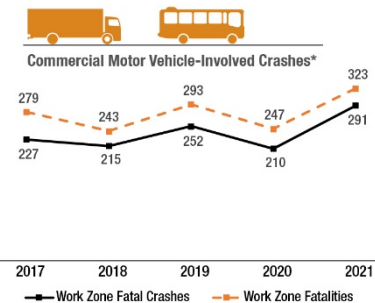
Last month was National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW), which spotlighted critical safety and mobility issues in and around work zones.

NWZAW serves as an annual reminder about the continued importance of work zone safety and mobility for all road users—including motorists and vulnerable road users like pedestrians, bicyclists, and highway workers on foot.

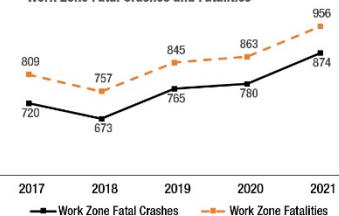
Additionally, work zone safety is a part of the U. S. Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy to reduce serious injuries and deaths. Nationally, the rate of fatalities from all causes has not substantially improved over the last 10 years and continued to increase in 2021.

Here are a few ways you can keep work zones safe.

- **Plan ahead.** Use traveler information sources on websites, social media, and apps to check for active work zones along your route. If possible, avoid traveling through work zones. Otherwise, allow yourself extra time to anticipate possible delays and travel safely.
- **Put down your phone.** Workers are focused on doing their job to repair the roads; focus on your job to safely travel through the work zone by avoiding distractions.
- **Reduce your speed.** Transportation agencies may reduce speed limits in work zones to make it safer for you to navigate narrow lanes and lane shifts while keeping workers safe. Speed was a contributing factor in 32% of 2021 fatal work zone crashes.
- **Look out for workers.** There is not always a lot of space between the work area and travel lanes, so please be considerate and slow down when you see workers.
- **Be aware of pedestrians and bicyclists.** Work zones often restrict where non-motorized road users can travel. In 2021, 173 people on foot and on bicycles lost their lives in work zone crashes.
- **Understand your space.** Narrow lanes and unexpected lane shifts can be challenging for large vehicles to navigate. Many motorists also view commercial vehicles as a “free pass” to cut into traffic. In 2021, 33% of fatal work zone crashes involved commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). Also, be on the lookout for large construction vehicles that may be entering and exiting the work area at slower speeds.
- **Stay alert.** Work zones sometimes cause slowdowns in unexpected places, so be prepared for sudden stops. In 2021, 24% of all fatal work zone crashes involved rear-end collisions.



Work Zone Fatal Crashes and Fatalities



The NPTC Monthly Driver Safety Letter, jointly sponsored by NPTC and **Centerline Drivers**, is a Microsoft Word document that you can print out and post as is, if appropriate, or modify any way you wish to make it a better fit for your drivers, including adding your company logo. If you are already doing an in-house letter, you may find information here that you can cut and paste into your own letter. If you are interested in specific subjects, or have any comments/feedback, contact Tom Moore, CTP, at tmoore@nptc.org or (703)838-8898.