



MEDIA ALERT

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AAA URGES MOTORISTS TO USE CAUTION WHEN DRIVING THROUGH WORK ZONES

Increased funding for transportation projects means drivers can expect increased road and bridge construction activity during this year's summer driving season

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, (April 24, 2012) – AAA Tidewater Virginia supports National Work Zone Awareness Week, encouraging motorists to use caution and practice safe driving habits when approaching and driving through work zones. It's important for the driving public to be aware of the increased construction activity and to adjust to changing driving conditions and work zones when they encounter them, especially during this peak travel period.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in 2010, the most recent year for which data are available, highway work zone fatalities fell to 576—the least since 1982. While work zone fatalities have been cut in half over the last 10 years from a high of 1,186 in 2002, more remains to be done to save lives and prevent injury. In 2010, states reported 37,000 work zone-related injuries, which translates to an average of four people injured in a work zone every hour.

AAA offers the following work zone safety tips to motorists:

Plan Ahead -- Motorists are encouraged to check for planned work zone delays, traffic advisories and allot extra travel time prior to departing for their trip. Free to all travelers, the AAA TripTik(R) Travel Planner online mapping tool, available at AAA.com, provides motorists with the latest road construction and traffic congestion information and motorists can plan and select alternative travel routes to their destinations.

Stay Alert -- Motorists should obey the directions of any police officer, firefighter or road crew flagger and follow any posted work zone advisories and signage. Temporary work zone signs are orange and nearly always diamond-shaped. As with any driving situation, minimize interior and exterior distractions. Construction zones may contain unusual vehicles or machinery that can divert a driver's attention. Drivers should be prepared to stop, slow down, shift lanes and yield to the movement of construction workers and equipment. Motorists should not turn off their vehicles when stopped on the roadway unless they will be idling for a significant period of time.

Reduce Speed -- For the safety of all drivers and construction workers, normal posted speed limits are almost always reduced in work zones. Most states double fines for speeding in work zones when workers are present. Motorists, while keeping consistent with the flow of traffic, should maintain a safe distance between vehicles ahead, traffic barriers and construction workers and equipment.

As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and

advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit AAA.com and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATWnews](https://twitter.com/AAATWnews).

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