




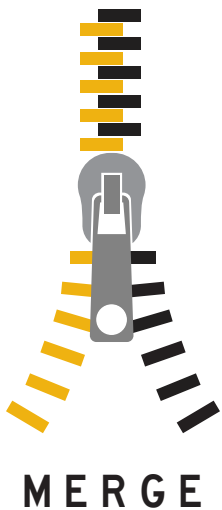
Work zone awareness is **critical for the safety** of the traveling public as well as construction crews. **Practicing safe driving habits** and vigilance behind the wheel is everyone's responsibility. We encourage you to take that responsibility seriously, especially in construction zones. **Dedicate your full attention to the roadway** and do your part to drive distraction-free. Below are tips to promote safety in work zones.










SAFETY IN WORK ZONES:

-  **SLOW YOUR SPEED** when approaching work zones to help avoid work zone crashes. Expect the unexpected and be prepared to react.
-  **BE AWARE** that traffic patterns, speed limits, and lane conditions can change daily. Overnight work is common on roadway construction projects, so things may look different on your morning commute than they did the day before.
-  **WATCH OUT** for construction vehicles entering and exiting the travel lanes.
-  **BE ALERT** for that flaggers are often used to direct traffic during construction activities like road or lane closures, movement of oversized equipment or materials, and more.
-  **INCREASE YOUR FOLLOWING DISTANCE** and don't tailgate! Be prepared to slow down for changing conditions when traveling in a construction work zone.
-  **BE PATIENT**, stay calm, and be courteous as you merge with other lanes of traffic at road construction lane closures to avoid accidents.

SAFE MERGING:



-  **EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN MERGING** with traffic of differing rates of speed; either slow down or speed up once you identify a safe gap to merge into.
-  **MATCH THE SPEED** of vehicles in the lane you merge into when there is enough space to merge.
-  **PARTICIPATE IN "ZIPPER MERGING"** to allow traffic to keep moving steadily.
-  **USE YOUR TURN SIGNAL** to notify other drivers of your intentions.
-  **DO NOT STOP** before merging.
-  **CHECK YOUR BLIND SPOTS** and monitor how much of the merge lane remains.
-  **DRIVE FRIENDLY** and allow others to merge with you.

