# WORK ZONE SAFETY Talking Points: OHIO

**The Importance of Work Zone Safety in Ohio**

* Across Ohio’s 121,856 miles of roadway and 44,047 bridges[[1]](#footnote-1), there are also 1,047 active work zones impacting drivers across the state.
* Ohio ranks 14th in the U.S. for fatal crashes involving CMVs in work zones. In 2020 alone, 28% of work zone roadway fatalities involved a CMV[[2]](#footnote-2).
* In 2022, Ohio saw 19,534 crashes involving a CMV, resulting in 196 fatalities.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Sharing the Road**

* Work zones present challenges for truck drivers across Ohio – narrowed lanes, sudden stops, traffic pattern shifts, and uneven road surfaces can lead to crashes and fatalities if they are not prepared and alert. Plan your route, reduce speed, stay alert, and do your part while traveling through Ohio work zones.
* On average, large trucks are overrepresented in work zone crashes. In 2019, over 33% of fatal crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle (CMV)[[4]](#footnote-4).
* Large blind spots, long stopping distances, and size constraints make maneuvering large trucks and buses in work zones particularly challenging. Passenger vehicles should be mindful that CMV drivers need to take extra precaution when driving through these areas.
* Pay close attention to road workers and flaggers – give them extra room, always slow when approaching them, and be prepared to stop if necessary.

**How to Drive Safely Through Work Zones**

* There are plenty of resources available to research your routes and check for upcoming work zones. Make sure you know of any road work before embarking on your route and when possible, use detours to avoid having to pass through these areas.
* Reduce speed while traveling through Ohio work zones, paying close attention to signs and signals.
* Be aware of passenger vehicle drivers around you, who may not be aware of commercial vehicle driving challenges, including large blind spots and longer stopping distances.
* Be prepared to stop or slow unexpectedly, and when doing so, activate emergency flashers to alert vehicles behind you.
* When approaching lane closures, move into the open lane as soon as possible – pay close attention to vehicles around you that could be in your blind spot.
* Rear-end crashes are common in work zones – obey all speeds, avoid distractions, and maintain extra space between your vehicle and the one in front of you at all times.

**Ohio’s Active Work Zones**

* Ohio currently has 1,000 active work zones across the state. As you travel through Ohio, it’s critical for all drivers – both CMV and passenger vehicle drivers – to share the road safely, particularly as they approach or enter work zones.
* Visit [ohgo.com](http://ohgo.com/) for the most up-to-date work zone information and real-time travel information.

**Where to get more information**

* The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) provides work zone safety [shareable materials](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/work-zone-safety-shareable-material) and [safety tips](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads/work-zones-safety-tips) on the [*Our Roads, Our Safety®*](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/ourroads) website.

1. Ohio Department of Transportation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. OH-1 Reports [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. FARS 2019 Annual Report File, NHTSA [↑](#footnote-ref-4)