

## Work Zone Awareness Week

Construction work zones present extra hazards to drivers and workers. Oregon Department of Transportation reports that annually there are 488 work zone-related crashes, including five fatalities. TVWD, the Willamette Water Supply Program, and our other partners manage dozens of construction work zones at any given time. Help support our safety mission and ensure construction crews go home safely:



### Plan ahead

Plan ahead and know where construction is. Expect delays, use marked detours, or plan alternate routes if possible. Check [GetUsThere.org](#) for Washington County road closures and advisories and [TripCheck.com](#) for statewide road conditions.



### Slow down and avoid distractions

When approaching a work zone, slow down, be alert, and remain calm. Avoid distractions such as your cellphone, eating, drinking, changing radio stations, looking at GPS and conversing with other passengers.



### Follow all signs and instructions

Be aware of all signage throughout work zones that can indicate reduced speeds, lane changes and other important information. When you see a flagger, obey their instructions and assume their instructions overrule any other traffic signals or signs. Keep in mind that their directions may not align with normal traffic patterns.



### Maintain a safe distance

The most common types of accidents in construction zones are rear-end crashes. Allow extra space between you and other vehicles, giving you more time to stop or react safely. If you are near a bus, truck, or construction equipment, never try to cut them off, as large vehicles have significant blind spots.



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

[Click here for past editions of the emergency preparedness tip newsletters.](#)