

## **Roadway Construction and Work Zone Safety**

As we near Memorial Day, we are surely in the middle of Road Construction all around the State of Minnesota. Construction and work zones present unique challenges and dangers for both the people working in them, and the people driving through them.

This year, the LMSC wants you to be safe when driving, walking or peddling through work zones. If you are an employee working in one of those zones, we want you to be safe and cautious!

Did you know that the Minnesota Department of Transportation posts construction alerts on their website? They provide information about road work updates, detours, road closings and future projects. Their website is <http://www.dot.state.mn.us> and it has a lot of good information for you as you attempt to navigate around the State.

### **Tips for Working Safely in Construction Zones**

- Always wear the required reflective vests, jackets or shirts while in the work zone.
- Always wear the personal protective equipment required in the area you are working (hard hat, gloves, safety glasses, shoes, etc.)
- Make sure that you have a spotter and traffic control assistance when moving a vehicle or piece of equipment in or out of a construction zone or blocked off area.
- Know where the traffic lanes are at all times.
- Ensure that you work behind protective barriers when at all possible.
- Watch the skies – weather changes can occur quickly.
- Stay alert and minimize distractions.

### **Tips for Driving Safely in Construction Zones**

- Expect the unexpected – speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road way.
- Slow down, follow and respect the posted road signs including speed limit changes.
- Obey road crew flaggers who are directing traffic.
- Keep up with traffic flow but do not tail gate.
- Expect delays.
- Be patient and stay calm.
- If on a bicycle or motorcycle, be aware of changes in the roadway surfaces which could cause you to lose control including bumps, ridges, oil, water, grit, sand or rocks.

### **Tips for Safe Pedestrian Travel in Construction Zones**

- When at all possible, avoid walking into or through a construction zone.
- Obey all posted signs and barricades.
- Know where the traffic lanes are and try to stay in the shoulder if possible.

Remember it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we have safe and injury free construction zones – Safety is NO Accident!