



Motor Vehicle Crashes in Work Zones

Motor vehicle crashes and related incidents are consistently the leading cause of work-related fatalities in the United States. There are more than 10,000 injuries that occur in road/highway work zones with approximately 100 deaths per year that result from being hit by a moving car in a road/highway work zone. Among the road/highway work zone injuries and/or deaths, approximately 25% are struck by passing vehicular traffic, 20% are struck by other construction vehicles and 20% are construction site vehicle crashes, primarily rollovers. The dangers of work zones is not limited to workers, as 490 deaths occurred in 2010 of non-workers driving through work zones.

In 2010, there were 576 fatalities in motor vehicle crashes in work zones, with 32 of those in Illinois. Furthermore, Illinois ranked fourth among all states for the most occupational related motor vehicle crash fatalities in work zones in 2010.

Key Facts

- In 2011, there were a total of 4,863 crashes in work zones in Illinois
- Of the 4,863 total crashes, there were 21 fatal crashes and 1,092 crashes that resulted in injuries.
- In total, there were 24 deaths, only two roadway workers, and 1,525 injured people.
- Majority of the crashes were on urban roadways (90.6%) in which 89.3% of all persons injured from a motor vehicle crash in a work zone also occurring on urban roadways.

Hazards

Hazards in work zones are unique.

- Work vehicles moving in and out of site
- Passenger cars, both intrusion and passing by
- Confined spaces
- Flagger
- Night operation/work
- Pressure to complete project fast
- Weather extremes - summer heat and cold winters
- Large equipment which pose additional safety hazards, including overturning
- No to limited barriers to separate workers from passing traffic
- Proximity of work area and equipment
- If rigid barrier is present, working between equipment and barrier (pinch point)
- Lack of high visibility apparel (vest)
- Poorly maintained equipment