

National Work Zone Awareness Week

Why is work zone awareness so important?

- Safety is the number one priority at ODOT – the safety of both road crews and travelers.
- The majority of people injured or killed each year in work zones are drivers and passengers.

What does ODOT do to keep work zones safe?

- ODOT, cities, counties and private construction companies take every possible step to safeguard people working on Oregon’s roads – orange cones, orange signs, vehicles and equipment providing some physical protection, along with the latest technology in alerting and directing drivers.
- ODOT posts work zone locations on TripCheck.com and publishes a Summer Construction Map every spring so travelers know what to expect.
- In partnership with federal transportation safety authorities and highway construction companies, we work hard every construction season to raise awareness among drivers.

What should drivers remember in work zones?

- Drive like you work there.
- Keep your eyes on the road and attention on the drive.
- When you see orange, slow down and expect to stop – day and night, even when a work zone isn’t active.

What are the biggest concerns going into the 2022 construction season?

- Faster traffic speeds and rising numbers of overall traffic fatalities in recent years. From 2015 through 2019 in Oregon, there was an average of 584 total crashes each year in work zones, including:
- An average of five people (including one worker) died each year.
- An average of 25 people were seriously injured.
- A total of 540 injuries, including serious injuries above, each year.

Most Current Crash Statistics for Oregon Work Zones

Year	Fatalities (persons killed)	Serious injuries	Any Injury (including serious)	Property Damage Only	Total Crashes
2019	4	27	472	189	498
2018	8	26	585	228	585
2017	4	28	596	288	659
2016	7	26	548	279	633
2015	3	16	498	217	544
2015-19 Total	26	123	2699	1201	2919
2015-19 Average	5	25	540	240	584

One crash can have multiple fatalities and/or injuries.

The vast majority of fatalities and injuries are those in vehicles, not work zone workers.

Work Zone Fatalities in 2022

We know of two fatalities in Oregon road work zones already this year – in January we lost a motorcyclist and a pedestrian.

Safety is ODOT’s top priority

Transportation safety and delivery of projects are key priorities under ODOT’s Strategic Action Plan. Work-zone safety is doubly important because it is about sustaining Oregon’s transportation infrastructure safely for both people doing the vital work in road crews and people traveling through work zones.

More information

- **ODOT crash statistics and reports**
<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Data/Pages/Crash.aspx>
- **Oregon Work Zone Safety Program**
www.oregon.gov/odot/Safety/Pages/Work-Zone.aspx
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**
<https://www.nhtsa.gov>

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