

WORK ZONE FACTS FOR YOU, THE MOTORIST

You, the motorist, are more likely to be the victim in a work zone crash instead of a worker. In Illinois, on average from 2010 to 2014, there were over 4,500 work zone motor vehicle crashes, resulting in nearly 1,100 injuries, and 27 fatalities with an average of 2 worker fatalities per year.

NEED TO KNOW

DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS

It is illegal to e-mail, text or surf the internet while driving on Illinois roadways. Drivers are now allowed only to use electronic communication devices in hands-free or voice-operated mode while traveling on all roadways. Drivers' undivided attention is crucial when travelling through highway construction and maintenance work zones and school zones. Fines are up to \$75 for the first offense and may increase to as much as \$150 for multiple offenses.

Can I receive a ticket for texting or talking on my hand-held cell phone in a work zone?

Yes. Distracted driving contributes to 16% of all police-reported traffic crashes according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Work zones need our complete attention. When traveling through a work zone or school zone, keep your hands off your cell phone and keep everyone safe. (source: http://www.distraction.gov/downloads/pdfs/Distracted_Driving_2013_Research_note.pdf)

Do workers have to be present to receive a speeding ticket in a work zone?

Workers do not have to be present to receive a speeding ticket in a work zone. Regulatory construction speed limit signs are erected in construction workzones lowering speed limits, i.e. from 70 mph or 65 mph to 55 mph or from 55 mph to 45 mph, and apply when normal conditions do not exist (narrow lanes, edge drop-offs, lane reduction, etc.) for the motorist. This could also apply when construction equipment or a temporary obstruction is within close proximity to open lanes of traffic. This reduced speed is for the safety of the motorists and is not limited to the time when workers are present. Slower speeds give drivers more time to safely negotiate these restricted areas yet only adds seconds to the overall length of a trip. At times, when workers are close to active traffic lanes, further restrictions may be put into place lowering the speed limit to 45 mph or less. On average, over 90% of work zone fatalities are motorists. Obey the posted speed limit and arrive safely at your destination.

What types of signs have to be present to indicate the increased work zone fees apply and where can they be referenced?

Regulatory speed limit signs (black and white) with the posted speed, the increased Work Zone fine, the Work Zone plaque and the Photo Enforced plaque are required per legislation. The Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority have established standards and specifications based on legislation which show the type of signs required for the reduced speed limits. Information regarding the Highway Standards, including signs and other traffic control related requirements can be found at: <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/doing-business/procurements/engineering-architectural-professional-services/Consultants-Resources/highway-standards-and-district-specificstandards>



Do I have to appear in court and what is the fine for speeding in a work zone?

Yes, court appearance is mandatory. The fines for speeding in a construction or maintenance work zone are a minimum of \$375 for the first offense and a minimum of \$1000 for the second offense. If the second offense is within two years of the first offense, the Secretary of State shall suspend the driver's license for a period of 90 days.

Are flashing lights required on speed limit signs in work zones?

Flashing lights are not required. At one time flashing lights and signs indicating "When Workers are Present" were used in Illinois. Consistent application of these flashing lights was difficult to manage and confusion to motorists occurred. The Governor's Work Zone Task Force recommended removing these flashing lights and using a regulatory speed limit sign for consistency.

What laws are applicable to motorists regarding work zones and where do you find them?

These can be found in the Criminal Code and Vehicle Code for the State of Illinois. These can be found and researched on the State of Illinois web sites. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs2.asp?ChapterID=53> or <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs2.asp?ChapterID=49>

When can a person be charged with reckless homicide for a crash in a work zone and what are the penalties?

Reckless homicide, a Class 3 Felony, is unintentionally killing an individual while performing the action recklessly in a work zone. If a reckless homicide offense occurs in a work zone it becomes a Class 2 felony with imprisonment from 3 to 14 years.



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To view the Illinois Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) and additional safety information go to:
www.ISHSP.org

SCOTT'S LAW, THE MOVE OVER LAW

What is Scott's Law and is it still in effect?

Scott's Law, named after Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department who was struck and killed while assisting at a crash on the Dan Ryan Expressway, requires that, when approaching any emergency vehicle stopped along the roadway (including construction vehicles and equipment), you must reduce your speed, change lanes if possible, and proceed with caution.

Do I have to appear in court and what are the fines for violating Scott's law, the Move Over Law?

A person charged with this offense must appear in court. Penalties include fines for up to \$10,000 and have driving privileges suspended for up to two years. In cases of death of another person, additional penalties can apply such as reckless homicide which could result in imprisonment from 3 to 14 years if convicted.

PHOTO ENFORCEMENT IN WORK ZONES

Why use photo speed enforcement?

Photo Speed Enforcement will be used to increase safety in work zones on Illinois highways, and to obtain voluntary compliance by motorists to obey posted speed limits. On average, over 4,500 crashes occur in work zones per year. Motorists on average represent over 90% of the fatalities in work zones in Illinois. Slower speeds will allow motorists more time to react to changed conditions.

When would photo speed enforcement be in use?

Photo speed enforcement by an automated traffic control system may operate only during those periods when workers are present in the construction or maintenance zone, day or night.

When workers are behind Temporary Concrete Barrier (TCB) can photo speed enforcement be used?

Photo enforcement legislation requires workers to be present. While Temporary Concrete Barriers provide positive protection for workers, they are not impenetrable. Vehicles have hit and broken through TCB, causing injury to workers. Also, lane width restrictions may require reduced speed limits to ensure the safety of the motorists. For these reasons, photo enforcement is permitted to be used in work zones when workers are present.

Will a special sign have to be in place for photo speed enforcement to be used?

Yes. Signs indicating that speeds are photo enforced by automated traffic control systems will be clearly posted in the area where the systems may be in use.

Do I have an opportunity to slow down before the camera takes my picture?

Yes. In addition, the vans will have a speed indicator device that will be triggered by a separate radar and will communicate the vehicle's speed to the motorist. This will give the motorist one last opportunity to slow down before the camera radar is triggered. If the motorist does not slow down, the camera radar will be triggered. A photo of the driver, vehicle, and license plate will be taken. The time of day and speed will also be captured.

What if the equipment is not working correctly?

Illinois State Police will man these vans with troopers specially trained in photo radar enforcement. They will calibrate the equipment prior to each enforcement detail to make sure everything is working correctly.

Do I have to appear in court and what are the fines for a violation received with photo speed enforcement?

Yes, a court appearance is mandatory. The fines for speeding in a construction or maintenance work zone are the same when issued by any method of enforcement. There is a minimum fine of \$375 for the first offense and a minimum of \$1000 for the second offense. If the second offense is within two years of the first offense, the Secretary of State shall suspend the driver's license for a period of 90 days.

What is the ticketing process?

A ticket will be processed and will be approved by the on-duty officer. Tickets will be mailed by certified mail to the registered owner, within 14 days, who will be required to appear in court.



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