

# WORK ZONE AWARENESS

2026 National Work Zone Awareness Week: **Safe Actions Save Lives**

## From 2020 to 2024 in Illinois

on average, each year there were:

**6,195** work zone crashes and  
**1,073** people injured as a result.

Workers are not the only ones injured or killed by work zone crashes.



Of the **137** work zone fatalities in Illinois from 2020 to 2024...



**9** were worker fatalities. The rest were road users.



## Heavy Vehicles

Look for heavy vehicles entering and leaving work zones. They need more time to slow down and speed up.



In **2024**, more than **61%** of fatal work zone crashes involved a heavy vehicle.

- Do not follow closely or cut in front of heavy vehicles.
- Rear-ending one is as deadly as being rear-ended by one.

## Safety Tips



- Drop it and drive.
- Slow down and obey speed limits.
- If possible, move over for workers.
- Pay attention. Conditions can change quickly.
- Give heavy vehicles room to adjust to conditions.
- **Remember:** Traffic backups can occur at any time.



## Merging Safely

If lanes are reduced due to road work and

○ the road is **not heavily congested**, merge early into the open lane.



○ there is **heavy congestion or slow traffic**, use either lane up to the reduction, then take turns merging.

