

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

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Drive Safe. Work Safe. Save Lives.

National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 26-30

Flint, Michigan. ---

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) will be observed April 26-30 with this year's theme of "**Drive Safe. Work Safe. Save Lives.**" NWZAW is in its 21st year and was launched as a public awareness campaign to help everyone understand they play a role in keeping motorists and roadway workers safe. This year's national kickoff event is scheduled for April 27th in Michigan. Statistics from the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse show there were 762 fatal crashes in work zones resulting in 842 deaths in 2019. In addition, 135 roadway workers were killed in work zones. The vast majority of people killed in work zones were **motorists, passengers and pedestrians**. Those statistics demonstrate the importance of work zone safety and participating in NWZAW to spread the message that everyone has a role in getting roadway workers and those traveling through work zones home safely. Additionally, there were a total of 123,000 work zone crashes in 2018—of which 31,000 were injury-involved crashes that resulted in 45,000 injuries, which underscores the need to observe work zone speeds and **eliminate distractions** when approaching and driving through work zones. As part of NWZAW, everyone is encouraged to participate in Go Orange Day on April 28th, a day when individuals are encouraged to wear orange as a visual reminder of work zones. Post photos of Go Orange Day activities on social media using the hashtags #NWZAW and #GoOrange4Safety. To learn more about NWZAW, visit nwzaw.org. State departments of transportation, federal

agencies and other organizations will be participating in NWZAW and Go Orange Day, distributing public service announcements about work zone safety and hosting events to highlight the issue. NWZAW was formed by the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The partnership has expanded to include the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA), D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT), Associated General Contractors (AGC), and American Road & Transportation Builders (ARTBA), plus support from many people and organizations touched by work zone safety.

GCRC ask that all motorists are to proceed with caution through all work zones, obeying posted reduced speed limits, and allow themselves additional time to reach their destinations.

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Please slow down in work zones, for your family and ours