



# Topic: Construction Zones

*Construction zones are dangerous to both workers and drivers. Slowing down and being alert saves lives.*

## **Road builders have a problem. Is it you?**

OSHA recently began inspections aimed at reducing fatalities and injuries at highway construction sites. The program was due, in part, to an anticipated 66 percent increase in U.S. road building zones over the next six years. Under the recently enacted *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century*, \$218 billion is authorized for roadwork.

“Our goal is to identify and remove potential risks to road construction workers. There is a clear need to take a proactive approach to save lives and prevent injuries,” said Michael Connors, the agency’s Regional Administrator in Chicago. In the last five years, there have been 54 fatalities at Midwest road construction zones, with the majority involving workers struck by motorists or construction vehicles. Most incidents are caused by speeding motorists, according to the *Associated General Contractors*.



OSHA will cooperate with the *National Safety Council* to provide work-zone safety training and is working with the road building industry, unions, state police, and transportation departments to reduce work-zone hazards.

The future is clear. There will be more construction zones for trucks and cars to traverse. There will be more speed-zone enforcement. What is not clear is, in spite of all of this effort, whether drivers really will slow down when entering an area where road work is being done. Do your part to ensure the safety of road workers: Slow down.