

April 9-13, 2018 is National Work Zone Awareness Week



Every spring, National Work Zone Awareness Week is held to bring national attention to motorist and worker safety and mobility issues in work zones. This year, the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety, the NJ Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration are sponsoring a free Work Zone Safety Conference on March 28, 2018, at the Conference Center at Mercer County Community College. If you are interested in attending you can register [here](#).

According to the Federal Highway Administration, nationally, there were an estimated 96,626 crashes in work zones in 2015, an increase of 7.8% over 2014. According to www.workzonesafety.org, there were 765 total fatalities, 143 of which were worker fatalities, nationwide in work zones in 2016.

The following are some tips for keeping your workers safe while working on or near roadways:

- Develop and implement a traffic control plan to direct motorists around work zones, allowing sufficient time and advance notice for merges and lane changes. Refer to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for standards on traffic control devices, signs, flagging garments, and other protective measures for workers in road construction zones.

- Provide high-visibility clothing and hard hats to flaggers, and make sure they stand in a safe, well-lighted location where motorists can easily see them.
- Establish safe routes for workers traveling on foot, both within the work zone to protect them from construction vehicles and equipment, and in and out of the work zone to protect them from traffic hazards.
- Train all workers in roadway construction zones on the hazards they are exposed to and safe work practices. There are several Bulletins and Safety Briefings on the MEL website to assist with training. Additional training resources are available at www.workzonesafety.org.