

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR



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**GOVERNOR PERDUE PROCLAIMS APRIL WORK ZONE SAFETY  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**RALEIGH** — Gov. Bev Perdue proclaimed April Work Zone Safety Awareness Month to remind motorists to drive safely through North Carolina's work zones. This year, each interstate will have construction, making 2009 one of the most active construction seasons in recent years for road crews and increasing the need for work zone safety awareness.

"Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, North Carolina is fortunate to have a high volume of roadway construction projects scheduled this summer that will bring jobs to all areas of the state," said Gov. Bev Perdue. "We must remember that as motorists, we have a responsibility to keep road crews and our fellow travelers safe at all times."

"More than four out of five people killed in work zones are motorists, and more than half of all work zone crashes are attributed to speeding and driver inattention," said Transportation Secretary Gene Conti. "Drivers must slow down and pay attention in work zones to protect themselves and our workers."

Over the past several years there has been an average of about 200 major work zones across the state at any given time. That number will increase significantly this year due to projects awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as through Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles, or GARVEE bonds, which allow NCDOT to borrow against future federal funding to complete needed projects.

Nearly 1,500 people were injured and 21 people were killed in work zone crashes in 2008 in North Carolina. The penalty for speeding in a designated work zone in North Carolina is \$250. In conjunction with Work Zone Safety Awareness Month, the N.C. Department of Transportation is

partnering with the N.C. State Highway Patrol to increase enforcement in highway construction areas across the state.

The NCDOT Work Zone Safety Program aims to significantly reduce the number of work zone fatalities and injuries in North Carolina. To accomplish this, NCDOT partners with other state agencies and transportation industry members to educate motorists about the risks associated with driving through work zones. These educational activities include the distribution of video packages to driver education classrooms across the state, an outreach program targeting the professional trucking industry and appearances by the program mascots Buddy Barrel and Connie Cone at public events.

NCDOT reminds motorists to stay alert; obey posted speed limits and do not speed; minimize distractions; travel at non-peak times; use alternate routes, when possible; and expect the unexpected. Plan ahead before driving by visiting the NCDOT Traveler Information Management System Web site at [www.ncdot.gov/traffictravel/](http://www.ncdot.gov/traffictravel/) or call 511, the state's toll-free travel information line for current travel conditions.

To learn more about work zone safety in North Carolina, visit the NCDOT Work Zone Safety Program's Web site at [www.ncdot.gov/~workzone](http://www.ncdot.gov/~workzone) or call the NCDOT Traffic Systems Operation Unit at (919) 329-7007.

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