



The North Carolina Department of Transportation

Work Zone Safety Program

Operation Drive Smart 2009 Fact Sheet

- **What is *Operation Drive Smart* 2009?**

Operation Drive Smart is an enforcement campaign targeting speeding and aggressive driving in work zones across the state. The N.C. Department of Transportation is partnering with the N.C. State Highway Patrol to increase enforcement and crackdown on excessive speeders and aggressive drivers in work zones. This campaign is an effort to increase work zone safety awareness and education and reduce the number of work zone fatalities in North Carolina.

Operation Drive Smart locations are as follows:

- I-95 in Cumberland County
- I-85/I-40 in Guilford and Alamance counties
- I-77 in Yadkin County
- NC 24/27 in Stanly County
- I-40 in Buncombe and McDowell counties
- I-26 in Henderson County

- **When is *Operation Drive Smart* 2009?**

Operation Drive Smart will run from April 6-12. The campaign could not come at a better time, since we are now officially in the busy spring and summer holiday travel season. And as the temperatures increase, so do construction activities in our state's work zones. While work zone safety awareness is imperative year-round, it is especially important that motorists slow down and pay attention during this time of increased travel and activity.

- **How will the work zones be patrolled?**

Speed is the number one contributing factor in work zone crashes; therefore the State Highway Patrol will be using a variety of enforcement techniques to aggressively enforce speed limit laws in several major work zones across the state. Troopers will use motorcycles and marked and unmarked Patrol vehicles to patrol the work zones. Other enforcement techniques, such as drone vehicles, wolf packing, and Operation Yellow Jacket may also be used.



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- **What is the penalty for speeding in a work zone?**

Speeding in designated work zones in North Carolina can result in a significant penalty of \$250 plus court costs and three driver license points.

- **Is the reduced speed limit in a work zone applicable if workers are not present?**

The posted speed limit in a work zone is applicable and enforceable at all times. The speed limit in a work zone is often lowered because of potentially hazardous conditions, such as narrowed lanes, traffic shifts, concrete barriers and lane closures. These hazards may be present even when workers are not.

In fact, more than four out of five work zone-related fatalities are motorists, not workers. In 2008 there were nearly 2,400 work zone crashes in North Carolina, resulting in 21 fatalities. In more than half of all work zones crashes nationwide, speed and/or driver distraction contributed to the crash.