



State of North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

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Operation *Drive Smart* 2010 Kicks Off This Week

Crime Control and Public Safety and DOT Initiative Strives to Increase Work Zone Safety Awareness

RALEIGH — The N.C. State Highway Patrol and the N.C. Department of Transportation will kickoff Operation *Drive Smart* 2010 this week. In an effort to reduce the number of traffic collisions in North Carolina's work zones, the Highway Patrol will set up enforcement and crack down on excessive speeders in some of the busiest work zones in the state.

"Speeding is the leading cause of traffic collisions in work zones," said State Highway Patrol Commander Colonel Randy Glover. "I have instructed our Troopers to aggressively crack down on motorists traveling at high speeds and driving recklessly."

According to NCDOT, there were 2,125 work zone crashes resulting in more than 1,200 injuries in 2009. Of these injuries, 11 were fatal. More than four out of five work zone crash fatalities are motorists. Speeding and driver distraction account for more than half of all work zone crashes.

"Safety is the department's number one priority, whether you are behind the barrel or behind the wheel," said Transportation Secretary Gene Conti. "Operation *Drive Smart* will help us continue to increase work zone safety awareness and remind drivers to slow down and use caution."

"The Highway Patrol is determined to reduce fatal collisions in these work zones, and going after speeders who recklessly endanger the public will help us do that," said Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Reuben Young. "Operation *Drive Smart* is an effort to reverse the trend of increasing speeds in work zones by irresponsible drivers."

Operation *Drive Smart* is a campaign that will concentrate solely on speeding, aggressive driving and other traffic violations in work zones. Work zone locations for the operation are as follows:

Troop A

- **U.S. 158 in Camden County**

Troop B

- **I-40 in Sampson and Duplin counties**

Troop C

- **I-40 in Wake County**
- **I-40/I-540 in Wake and Durham counties**

Troop D

- **U.S. 311 in Guilford and Randolph counties**

Troop E

- **U.S. 70 in Rowan County**

Troop F

- **I-40 in Iredell County**

Troop G

- **I-26 in Buncombe County**
- **I-40 in Buncombe County**

Currently, there are more than 200 major work zones in North Carolina. Although most work zone locations for Operation *Drive Smart 2010* are on interstate routes, work zones are not limited to interstate facilities.

“Construction and maintenance activities take place on all roads throughout North Carolina,” said NCDOT State Highway Administrator Terry Gibson. “Considering the increased number of work zones across the state as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this enforcement initiative could not come at a better time.”

Troopers will be using motorcycles and marked and unmarked Patrol vehicles to target some of the state’s busiest work zones. Included in the crackdown will be commercial motor vehicle drivers committing serious traffic violations. These violations include driving over the posted speed limit, following too closely, improper or erratic lane changes, and careless and reckless driving.

During Operation *Drive Smart 2009*, troopers issued more than 500 citations for speed violations in work zones across the state. In addition to work zone speed violations, troopers also cited six motorists for driving while impaired, 98 for seat belt violations and 17 for making unsafe movements.

Motorists may report dangerous driving to the Highway Patrol by dialing *HP on their cellular phones.

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