

## **Motorists: Work Zone Safety is in Your Hands**

*Press Release*

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### ***Motorists: Work Zone Safety is in Your Hands*** ***National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week is April 3-7***

(WOOD DALE) -- The Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA) together with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois Tollway, and Illinois State Police (ISP) are asking motorists to take work zone safety into their hands this year. These organizations and other members of the Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Partners (ISHSP) are taking part in National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week (#NWZSAW) to raise awareness about construction hazards for the motoring public and the need to use extra caution in work zone areas.

IRTBA Chairman of the Board David Rock said, "Safety is very important all year. There is special attention brought to safety with the motoring public in April because it coincides with the start of the busy construction season." Rock added, "IRTBA encourages motorists to follow simple, safe driving tips to make driving safer for themselves and workers throughout the construction season."

#### **Safe Driving Tips for Motorists**

- Check your vehicle to make sure all safety devices are operable and effective (brakes, turn signals, headlights, tail lights, horn)
- Avoid distractions; don't eat, drink, or talk on a cell phone, text, or surf the web
- Drive with headlights on; even during the daytime
- Don't speed; drive at the posted limit and drive slower in bad weather conditions - especially in work zones
- Never drive if you are drowsy, drunk, or taking medications that can impair your ability to operate heavy machinery
- Pay attention to road construction signs indicating uneven pavement, narrower lanes, and lane / traffic pattern changes
- Put on your seat belt every time you get into a vehicle
- Always drive defensively and avoid aggressive driving (quick lane changes, tailgating)
- Adjust mirrors to give yourself optimal view
- Map out your route ahead of time if you are unfamiliar with where you are headed

IRTBA President & CEO Mike Sturino said, "The risk of potentially injuring a construction worker, another driver on the road, yourself or your loved ones isn't worth getting to your destination a few minutes faster or checking that text message while driving. We're asking motorists to slow down and put their phones down."

Members of the ISHSP have come together to illuminate the unique hazards that exist for workers and motorists in road construction zones with multiple events throughout National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. Participating IRTBA members voluntarily delayed starting their work days on Monday, April 3, and held ten-minute "Toolbox Talks" focused on safety to refresh workers on general safety precautions to take while working. Members of the ISHSP, including IRTBA, hosted multiple press conferences throughout the State this morning, to call the public's attention to work zone safety while driving through the many new and resuming construction projects this season. On Wednesday, April 5, the entire transportation industry is participating in a campaign, *Go Orange For Safety*, encouraging member firm's office staffs to support their colleagues in the field and wear orange to promote safer work zones, posting photos on social media using the hashtags #OrangeForSafety and #NWZSAW.

#### **About Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association**

The Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA) has spent over 75 years as the leading transportation industry trade association in Illinois. IRTBA member firms design, build, and maintain the state highways, transit systems, railways, and aviation systems. The core purpose of IRTBA is to advance and promote the transportation design and construction industry in Illinois.