

# Staying Safe

A Program of the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission and...



Safe Sober

Wisconsin Department of Transportation



# HIGHWAY WORK ZONE

## Safety

## Be Safe & Work Zone Friendly KNOW THE SIGNS

Signs will give you plenty of warning. Failure to slow down and read the signs can be life threatening – for the construction workers and you.

### RIGHT LANE ENDS

Be prepared to merge into the left lane. **Try to blend into traffic early. Avoid pushing your way into the lane at the last minute – this may cause unneeded congestion!**

### FLAGGER AHEAD

Be prepared to stop. When you see this sign, slow down and stay in line. A real person will soon be standing in front of you. Take your responsibility seriously.

### TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

This sign means you are no longer on the divided highway. Adjust to having only one travel lane and oncoming traffic.

### ROAD WORK BEGINS IN 1500 FEET

This is meant to be a clear warning to slow down. Be alert. Traveling at 60 mph, you will be in a work zone just 17 seconds after seeing the sign.

### REDUCED SPEED LIMIT

Follow reduced speed limit signs in work zones at all times. Reducing speed improves safety for the workers. Also, work zones often have narrowed lanes, reduced shoulders, lane shifts and steep side slopes making it dangerous to travel at the normal speed.

### REMEMBER, IN WISCONSIN:

- Buckle up for safety, it's the law!
- Fines are double in work zones.
- If you see law enforcement, towing or road maintenance vehicles on the side of the road with their emergency lights on, move over or slow down.
- Stay back at least 200 feet when following maintenance vehicles.

## Safety First GIVE 'EM A BRAKE Tips for Easy Travel

For easier and safer travel nothing beats planning in advance. When you enter a work zone, it's important to obey the signs – merge, slow down and be careful. These are bottom-line necessities for safe and easy travel on any road.

Here are a few strategies to get you through construction zones safely and with minimal stress:

- Avoid peak travel hours between noon - 8pm on weekends – especially Fridays and Sundays. Expect delays at these times.
- Know where the work zones are located and allow extra time to get through them.
- Watch for special instructions and advisories on electronic message boards as you approach a major work zone.
- Slow down and merge early and cautiously.
- Stay alert. Be prepared for surprise slow-downs and speed-ups.
- Leave braking room between you and the car in front of you – approximately one car length for every 10 mph.
- Take an alternate route.
- Stay calm and cool. Work zones aren't meant to personally inconvenience you. Everyone's safety is dependent on your cooperation.

Information provided by:  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Hill Farm State Transportation Bldg., 4802 Sheboygan Ave., P.O. Box 7910, Madison, WI 53707-7910.  
For more information about workzone safety and current Wisconsin work zones, visit [www.dot.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov)

# YIELD TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Wisconsin State Law requires motorists to yield when approached by an emergency vehicle. In an emergency, minutes can mean the difference between life and death and critical seconds can be lost if drivers don't make way for emergency vehicles. Take sirens seriously. Make way for an ambulance, fire truck or police vehicle. Someday you may be the one calling for help, or the life on the line might be a friend, neighbor or someone you love. For more information see Wisconsin Statute 346.169(1).

### WHAT TO DO WHEN APPROACHED BY AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE

• Remain calm and maintain control of your vehicle without jeopardizing the safety of others. • Pull to the right and come to a stop. With few exceptions, moving your vehicle safely to right is the best action when approached by emergency vehicles. When traveling at greater speeds or when there is no room to stop, slow down as much as possible. • When in the left lane, pull over into the right lane as the traffic in the lane to your right moves to the shoulder. • If you cannot move to the right because of an obstacle or other vehicle, slow down, signal to the right and continue until it is safe to merge. Your prompt action will let the driver of the emergency vehicle know your intentions and choose a safe path around your vehicle. • When an emergency vehicle approaches you from behind while your vehicle is stationary at an intersection stop sign or red light, do not move unless you can safely move to the right. • When traveling on a one-way street, moving to the right is best, but sometimes due to traffic, you may move to the left curb and yield to the middle lanes. This is one of the appropriate exceptions to the "pull to the right" rule.

When approaching an emergency vehicle, tow truck, road machinery or highway maintenance vehicle parked within 12 feet of the roadway and displaying visual lights, Wisconsin Law requires drivers to reduce speed and provide ample room prior to passing the stopped vehicle. For more information see Wisconsin State Statute 346.072(1).

### WHAT TO DO WHEN APPROACHING A STOPPED EMERGENCY VEHICLE

• When traveling on a roadway with multiple lanes in the same direction, merge into the lane away from the stopped vehicle providing an open lane as a buffer to the vehicle stopped on the roadside. • When traveling on a roadway with a single traffic lane for each direction of travel, reduce and maintain a safe speed until your vehicle is completely past the stopped vehicle.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN FOLLOWING OR PARKING NEAR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

• Maintain an interval of at least 500 feet when following an emergency vehicle responding to a call. • Avoid parking within 300 feet or the length of a city block of an emergency vehicle that has stopped for an emergency.

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