



Driving through Construction Zones

Just about everyone drives through construction zones.



For those who build and repair our bridges, roads, culverts and other similar infrastructure we are literally driving through their worksite and potentially putting them in harm's way. Whether or not we work in construction, the following tips for driving through construction zones may seem obvious but they are certainly worth a review.

Plan

Be aware of construction zones and plan to use alternative routes if possible. The Department of Transportation & Works provides an online Highway Construction and Maintenance Slow-Downs Report (<http://www.roads.gov.nl.ca/construction/default.stm>) that is updated bi-weekly during the construction season and whenever there is a significant change in a particular project. Municipalities may also have information on construction projects affecting traffic.

Respect and obey the traffic control person

The Occupational Health & Safety Act specifies that traffic control persons, like all workers, take reasonable care to protect his/her own health and safety as well as that of his/her co-workers and other persons near the workplace as part of the Worker's General Duty.

Pay attention

Don't be distracted by things such as eating, drinking, texting, phone calls or loud music.

Drive defensively

Anticipate changes in road surfaces, driving patterns, frequent stops and detours.

Obey all signs even when there is no evidence of workers

Don't assume that there isn't a worker just around the corner, or that hazards don't exist even after the work has finished for the day. Certain traffic control signage, (i.e. reduced speed, no passing etc.) is required when temporary road conditions pose a threat to motorists, whether or not workers are present in the area.

Slow down, don't tailgate, and keep calm

- Aggressive, impatient drivers can pose a serious threat to the safety of traffic control persons and others working in the construction zone. Pay even closer attention during adverse conditions such as rain, fog, rush hour, dawn and dusk.

