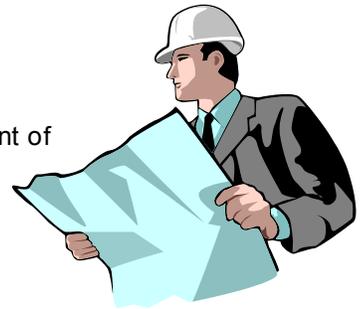


## The **WORK ZONE**

Both the state and federal governments have established strict guidelines for the placement of work zone warnings. Traffic engineers have devised a formula for placement of warnings based on the type of roadway and the speed limit. These construction and maintenance devices will provide a safety cushion both for motorists and repair and maintenance workers.

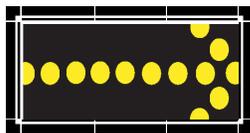


### Work Zone Devices

- **Orange Signals a Change in Road Conditions.** The color **ORANGE** is used by every state and locality as a signal to motorists of ongoing road work.
- **Construction and Maintenance Devices.** Various traffic control devices are used in construction and maintenance work areas to direct drivers or pedestrians safely through the work zone and to provide for the safety of the highway workers. The most commonly used traffic control devices are signs, barricades, drums, cones, tubes, flashing arrow panels and flag-persons.



- **SIGNS are there to HELP.** They prepare you for upcoming and existing conditions ahead. Warnings such as merging to left or right, road workers, flaggers (flag-persons), speed limits within work zone area, etc., are all common in work zones. **(For definitions on all constructions signs see Lesson One of this topic.)**
- **Flashing Arrow Panels.** Large flashing arrow panels or flashing message signs in work zones guide drivers into designated traffic lanes or inform them

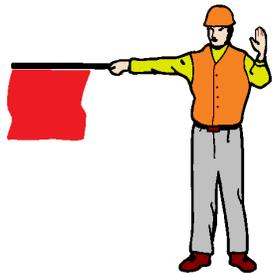


## Work Zone Devices (continued)



- **Flag-persons.** Flaggers normally wear orange vests, yellow or yellow-green shirts or jackets. They use STOP/SLOW paddles and red flags to direct traffic through the work zone and to let workers or construction vehicles cross the road.

- Flag-persons are used in situations that involve extreme hazards.
- Flag-persons' instructions must be obeyed.
- When instructed to stop, do so in your lane - do not veer right or left.



***Do not attempt to go forward until the flag-person instructs you to do so. Proceed with caution - expect the unexpected. Always be on the lookout for oncoming vehicles in your lane of traffic.***



- **Channeling Devices.** Barricades, vertical panels, concrete barriers, drums and cones are the most common devices used to guide drivers safely through work zones. When driving near these devices, keep your vehicle in the middle of the lane and obey the posted speed limit. As you leave the work zone, stay in your lane and maintain your speed. Don't change lanes until you are completely clear of the work zone.

**Whenever you see **ORANGE** — THINK WORK ZONE — use common sense, caution, and be alert as you drive through this area.**

## Types of Work Zones

There are two types of work zones – stationary and mobile.

### Stationary Work Zones



Stationary work zones, with easily definable boundaries, can include highway widening projects, bridge maintenance work, or surveying for future highway improvements.



Use caution and watch for trucks and equipment that are moving in and around the enclosed buffer area.

### Mobile Work Zones



When we think of work zones, we don't typically think about those that are mobile. Mobile work areas are those in which maintenance vehicles are being operated at a slow speed, for work such as mowing grass, picking up litter, plowing snow, striping pavement, etc.

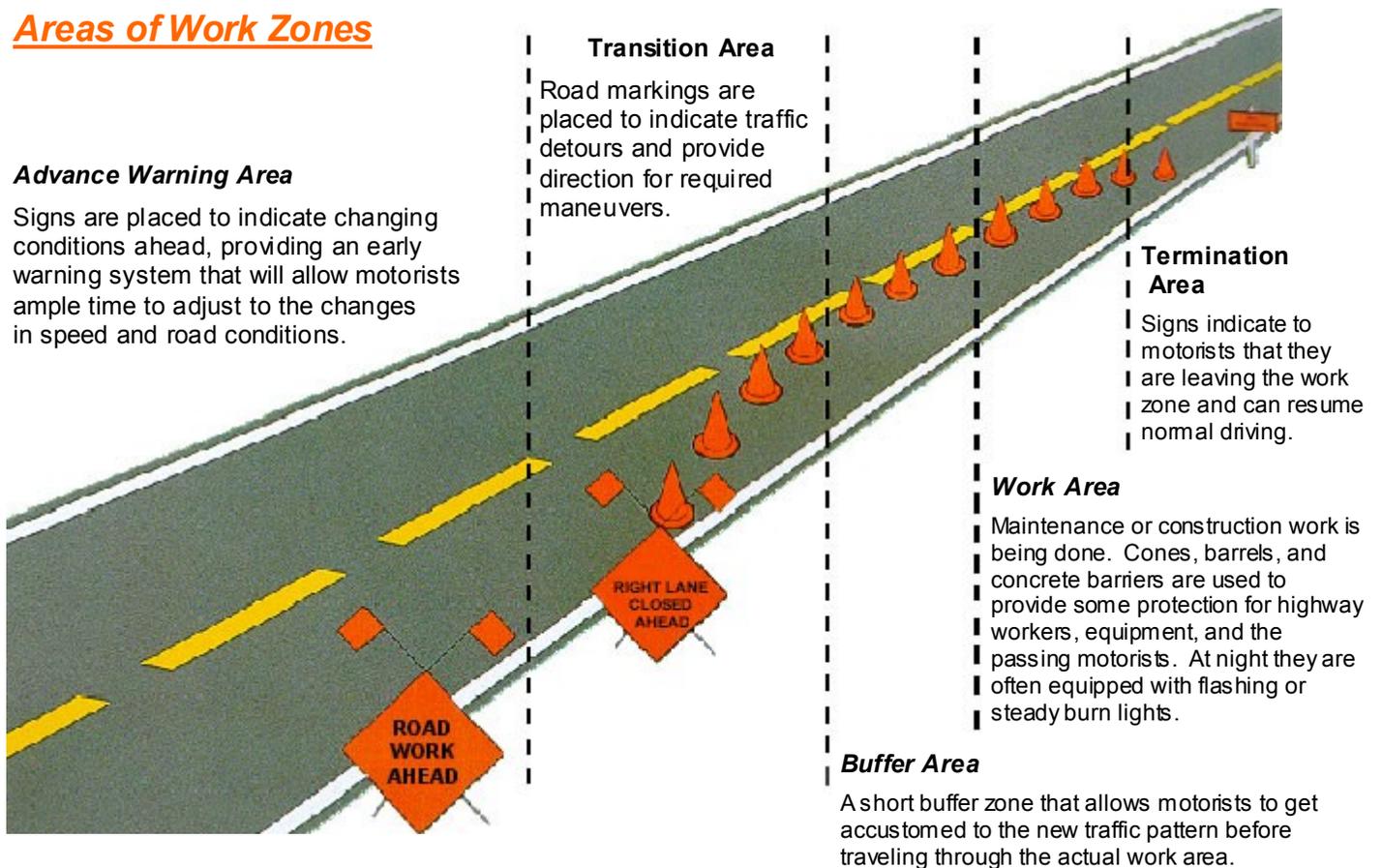


These vehicles move at a slower speed than other traffic and in many cases restrict your vision. **Use extreme caution when driving in this type of work zone. Obey all Flag-persons!**

## Areas of Work Zones

### **Advance Warning Area**

Signs are placed to indicate changing conditions ahead, providing an early warning system that will allow motorists ample time to adjust to the changes in speed and road conditions.



### **Transition Area**

Road markings are placed to indicate traffic detours and provide direction for required maneuvers.

### **Termination Area**

Signs indicate to motorists that they are leaving the work zone and can resume normal driving.

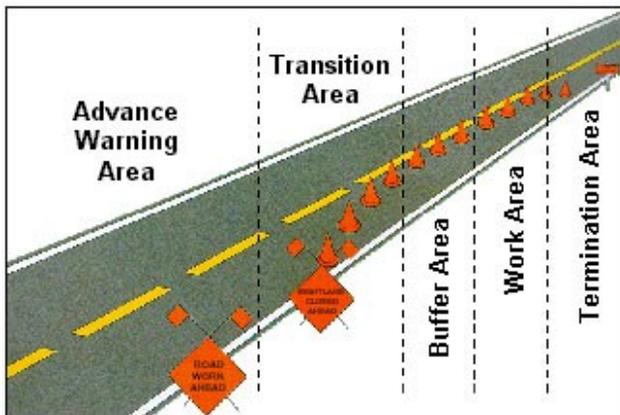
### **Work Area**

Maintenance or construction work is being done. Cones, barrels, and concrete barriers are used to provide some protection for highway workers, equipment, and the passing motorists. At night they are often equipped with flashing or steady burn lights.

### **Buffer Area**

A short buffer zone that allows motorists to get accustomed to the new traffic pattern before traveling through the actual work area.

## Driving through the Work Zone



1. As you enter the **Advance Warning Area**, signs will indicate road conditions ahead (maintenance or construction). Adjust to the changes. The early warning signs will provide you with ample time to prepare. Slow down, reduce speed to the posted construction zone speed signs and obey all flag-persons.



2. As you leave the Warning Area you will then enter into a **Transition Area**. Pay close attention to road markings. They will guide you, showing traffic direction and necessary detours. Follow the instructions provided and make the required maneuvers for lane and speed adjustments. Don't change lanes or pass while driving through the work zone unless instructed to do so.

3. After traveling through the Transition Area, you will enter a short **buffer zone** that is positioned just before the actual work area. You should have completed your lane and speed adjustments and can now get accustomed to the new traffic pattern before traveling into the work area.

4. Next you enter the **Work Area**. Cones, barrels, and concrete barriers provide some protection between you, highway workers, trucks and other construction equipment. Continue on the specified route and keep your speed low and your attention level high. **Be SAFE, stay alert and be aware of what is happening around you.**

5. When you have successfully passed the work area, the situation will begin to return to normal. The **Termination Area** will display signs indicating to motorists that they will soon be leaving the work zone and can resume normal driving. Continue to maintain a reduced speed until you clear the construction area and only then resume the normal posted speed.





To some drivers, work zone areas are meaningless and bothersome obstacles that slow traffic sometimes for months, causing them great inconvenience. These drivers often become irritated and create a greater danger to themselves and those the work zones were designed to protect. People are often in a hurry, and forget that one single mistake can result in serious injury and even death for a highway worker.

**To workers, motorists who are speeding in a work zone represent a real moment-by-moment threat to their safety.**

Typically, work zone accidents claim more than a dozen lives each year in Ohio. In addition, work zone crashes account for nearly 300 injuries and more than \$2 million in property damage each year.

### **DON'T BECOME A PART OF THE PROBLEM!**

**Drive safely, be alert at all times, use caution, be patient, and obey all construction signs and flag-persons!**

**Take work zone safety seriously.** Driving a vehicle in excess of a maximum speed limit established for a highway work zone where workers are present and work zone speed limits are posted may result in  **fines being doubled**  and reckless driving charges.

#### **REMEMBER**

- Keep an eye out for highway workers and “Give ‘em a BRAKE.”
- The color **ORANGE** denotes a highway work zone. Seeing this color should elicit a cautious driving attitude.
- Don't depend on highway workers to see you coming. After working on the road day-in and day-out, workers often become oblivious to the traffic around them. They're concentrating more on their work than on the traffic.
  - **Proceed with extreme caution**
  - **Drive at the posted speed**
  - **Don't change lanes or pass in work zones**
  - **Obey all signs and flaggers**
  - **Watch out for workers**
  - **Watch out for slow moving vehicles and equipment**

