

## CONSTRUCTION ZONE SAFETY: 5 THINGS ALL DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW

Unfortunately, construction is unavoidable when you are behind the wheel, especially during the Spring, Summer, and Fall seasons. In Illinois there is a phrase that states: *there are 2 seasons in Illinois-Winter and Construction season.*



- 1. Increase your following distance between your vehicle and other vehicles.** Stay 2 to 3 vehicle lengths between you and the vehicle in front of you. The reason for this is abrupt stops are common in construction zones and this will give you enough space to stop safely.
- 2. Don't assume that workers aren't present.** Make sure you obey speed limits to avoid accidents and hefty fines.
- 3. Follow instructions from Flaggers.** Always obey instructions from Flaggers, and assume that their instructions overrule any other traffic signs or signals. Always reduce your speed even more when around Flaggers.
- 4. Minimize Your Distractions.** When you see you are approaching a construction zone, turn down your radio, end any cell phone calls and keep both hands on the wheel and eyes on the road.
- 5. Merge Promptly at Lane Closures.** Do not wait until the lane ends to merge and force your way into the open lane. This is not only rude to other drivers but it can also be very dangerous if you cut someone off and it turns into a road rage incident.

### Questions - True or False:

1. There is no need to stay 2 to 3 vehicle lengths behind the vehicle in front of you because a truck can stop on a dime. \_\_\_\_
2. Don't worry about minimizing your distractions in the cab because you can always stop in time if traffic suddenly comes to a halt. \_\_\_\_
3. If you don't see Police, don't worry about speeding in a construction zone because the workers will always get out of the way of a truck. \_\_\_\_

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