

8 Tips To Remember When Driving Through A Construction Zone

Construction zones. We can probably all think about a bunch of orange cones and bright signs somewhere near our home right now. Construction zones are all over the country constantly. It is important to follow the rules and look out for people and construction workers.

Making a mistake in these areas can end up hurting people and yourself, and it can also lead to hefty fines. So, here are the top 8 tips to keep in mind when driving through a construction zone.

Tips To Keep People Safe in Construction Zones

1. Limit Distractions

Paying attention when behind the wheel is important regardless of whether or not you are in a construction zone. Construction zones do have a higher likelihood of having people walking around. Taking your eyes off the road could lead to serious problems. Injuries or damages can happen at a moment's notice.

Using your phone is probably the easiest way to distract yourself from the road, with moments like checking notifications, alerts, calls, or trying to change a song or turn off an alarm taking away your attention. They are all ways that quickly pull your attention and could lead to potential disaster and destruction.

A good way to limit these distractions is to be prepared. Have a playlist set up for your music. If your vehicle has hands-free options, take advantage of them, and turn off all alarms and notifications to protect yourself from curiosity. Self-control is another way to prevent you from checking your phone, but sometimes that can be difficult. So, be sure to pay attention and try and keep possible distractions to a minimum.

2. Pay Attention To Road Signs

Fortunately, construction signs are normally bright and reflective. They are made to stand out and grab your eyes' focus. In addition, most signs are straightforward, which means you shouldn't have much trouble following their instructions and heeding their warnings.

Properly knowing road signs is the first step for them to be able to guide you. Reading up on road signs and what they mean before driving is generally advised, especially if it worries you. If you have passed all the tests and earned your driver's license, you should be fine.

Remembering what signs you have seen and keeping their instructions in your head decreases the chances of making a mistake. For example, if a sign tells you to watch for flaggers, forgetting that information could lead to injury and a large fine or worse in some cases.

3. Increase Your Follow Distance

This tip is an easy one. Increasing your follow distance is as simple as that, just don't be on the other person's bumper. They could be the ones not be paying attention, hit their breaks suddenly, and then you will smash into them.

Most times, the blame will be put on you in that situation. However, noting how far you are back from the person in front of you can make all the difference, saving you from a real headache.

4. Expect Delays

Readying your patience when approaching a construction site is a good way to keep your cool and avoid rushed decisions. Whether you are running late or need to be somewhere, being impatient isn't going to speed things up at all. It could lead to anger, which will almost certainly wind up in an accident.

Checking your route online or in your GPS may be a good way to avoid unexpected stress or anger. This will also open an opportunity to find a new way to your destination, going around the construction completely.

5. Watch Out For Flaggers

Flaggers will tell you what to do and when to do it. Keep your eyes open for them and react accordingly to their directions. Watch out for other drivers who may not be listening well. Also, flaggers are humans too, and it is possible they could make mistakes. Be proactive in protecting yourself and your passengers by checking your surroundings before proceeding.

6. Road Hazards

Road hazards are to be expected in a construction zone. They often adjust the speed limit in a construction zone, but you don't have to go as fast as they suggest. If you need to keep it slow for your safety, don't feel pressured to go faster.

Watch for lowered edges and obstructions in the road. Construction workers are normally good at keeping the road clear and informing you of hazards, but again, people make mistakes, so do your best to watch out for them.

7. Blind Spots

Big construction machines, such as large trucks and dozers, may be present in these zones. The sheer size of them can block your vision, which could lead to you not seeing someone about to cross the street or enter the roadway. Being ready for people to step out and preemptively slowing down decreases the need for relying on their or your reaction time.

It is better to slow down and take a bit longer to get through the zone than to end up hitting a worker or pedestrian. Animals could also dart out from behind these pieces of equipment, especially at night.

8. Other Drivers

Parents will sometimes say, "I trust you; I just don't trust other people," and the sentiment is valid. A person might be having a bad day, or they just aren't good drivers. Either way, you need to be vigilant and keep an eye out for others.

Even when the construction workers are doing their job perfectly, drivers may not pay them any mind, causing a lot of trouble for the workers and people sharing the road with them.

Eyes Open, Drivers

Read the signs, follow the rules, and be cautious. These are excellent words of advice in and outside of a construction zone. If you are on the road, be courteous and careful. Driving a vehicle is a huge responsibility.

Preparedness can carry you a long way for a successful trip. Don't underestimate how knowing your route and where construction zones are, plus ways around them, could make your trip so much better.

Construction zones can be annoying at times, and many of us have to deal with them on a daily basis. It seems like when one goes away; another one pops up. Although the work is necessary, it can also lead to potentially dangerous conditions. So be careful when you see those bright, orange cones—and don't forget to drive safe!