

As a parcel delivery driver or courier, routes are completed throughout urban areas, cities, and rural areas. All three areas have one thing in common; construction zones. Roadways across America are consistently requiring construction work to repair broken down highways and build new roadways for the future. Construction zones, however, can be a delivery drivers' worst nightmare, particularly a delivery driver who is on a time crunch to deliver important packages. The information listed below describes general construction zone rules including steps to take to ensure the safety of everyone traversing the construction zone.

What is a Construction Zone?

A construction zone is an area of the roadway that is currently being repaired or constructed. The zone is marked by appropriate cones, signs, barrels, or signals warning of the zone. While workers are typically present from daylight to dusk, workers may also be present overnight. For the safety of everyone within the construction zone, it is imperative to use caution when operating within a construction zone.

Work Zone Accident Facts

- During the past 5 years in work zone crashes more than 4,400 persons died and 200,000 persons were injured
- Most work zone fatalities involve working-age adults
- Rear-end crashes (running into the rear of a slowing or stopping vehicle) are the most common type of work zone crash.
- Fatal work zone crashes occur most often in summer and fall.
- The majority of fatal work zone crashes occurred on roads with speed limits greater than 50 mph.

Responsibilities while Driving in a Construction Zone

- Pay attention to the roadway and other drivers around you.
- In many cases, construction zones will require lanes of traffic to merge. Enter the open lane as soon as possible when approaching lane closures.

- Do not tailgate vehicles to prevent others from merging.
- Allow ample following space between the car in front of you.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Obey flaggers signage and directions.
- Use appropriate turn signals and emergency flashers.
- Turn on your headlights.
- Do not use a cell phone, even when stopped in traffic.
- Expect delays
- Pay attention to roadway hazards as construction zones often have debris that sometimes can enter the roadway.
- Observe posted signs until you see a sign that indicates you have left the construction zone.

The Safest Alternative

The safest and best alternative to traversing construction zones is to avoid the zones altogether, if possible. Check with local and state agencies for upcoming construction work on a regular basis to better prepare drivers for construction zones. If construction zones are verified, seek alternative routes or detours that will allow drivers to avoid the construction zone. In the case that an alternative route is not available, prepare to allow a few extra minutes on your route for potential delays.