

Caltrans Work Zone Safety 2014 Fact Sheet

- There have been 183 Caltrans workers killed on the job since 1921.
- On April 24, 2013, two Caltrans maintenance employees lost their lives at a massive rockslide along State Route 96 in Siskiyou County. They were specialized rock scalers who died while working to prevent rocks from falling onto motorists.
 - Shawn Baker of Weed, 50, is survived by his wife and four children.
 - Joseph "Robert" Jones of Montague, 40, left behind his wife and three children.
 - A third rock scaler, Kevin Skillen, was severely injured.
- The deaths of Shawn Baker and Robert Jones ended a two-year stretch when Caltrans had not had a maintenance employee fatality on the job.
- Another Caltrans worker, Dean Patton, was fatally hit by a motorist while on his way to the 2013 statewide Worker Memorial.
- In addition to law enforcement and California Highway Officers, contracted highway workers are also at risk.
- On average 1,000 Caltrans vehicles are struck each year.
- Highway construction is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. The risk of death is seven times higher for highway workers than for an average worker, according to a study by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration/U.S. Department of Labor.
- In addition to the danger to workers, an estimated 85 to 90 percent of people who are killed in highway work zones are drivers and passengers.
 - Latest data shows that speeding was a factor in more than 35 percent of all fatal work zone crashes.



- Most work zone fatalities are caused by rear-end collisions. Driver distraction, inattention and aggressive driving are most often the cause.
- Caltrans' "Slow for the Cone Zone" public awareness campaign asks motorists to be alert and slow down, allow extra following room, expect sudden stops, never drive impaired, and avoid distractions, including cell phones in highway work zones.
- In 2013, Caltrans installed 100 permanent Move Over signs throughout California to promote the Move Over law, which requires drivers to move over a lane if safe to do so, or slow down, when passing vehicles with flashing amber lights.
- This week Caltrans is kicking off a public safety awareness campaign, which will be posted on billboards along the highways, to educate and encourage drivers to Slow for the Cone Zone and move over for emergency vehicles.
- Fines are doubled in highway work zones and can easily total \$1,000 or more for drivers who speed, drive aggressively, text or are otherwise distracted, or cause collisions in a highway work zone.

