State of California • Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

07-356

Date:	Wednesday, November 28, 2007	
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CALTRANS EMPLOYEE KILLED

San Bernardino– The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is saddened to report the death of John Knabenbauer, 42, a Caltrans maintenance equipment operator in District 8. A vehicle exiting the 5th Street off-ramp on Northbound I - 215 in San Bernardino, struck Mr. Knabenbauer. John suffered serious injuries and was transported to Loma Linda Hospital where he passed away.

John had been dispatched to remove a dead dog along the northbound I-215 early in the morning today. John was a 17-year veteran with Caltrans. He is the 12th victim to lose his life in District 8 (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties).

Since 1924, 169 Caltrans workers lives have been lost statewide. The last fatality in District 8 was Linda Sutton, on March 19, 2001. John's death is the second employee Caltrans has lost in the line of duty this year. Dejuan Bush, a District 4 employee from Oakland, passed away September 26, 2007 from injuries sustained in a Caltrans work zone.

With more Caltrans workers than ever before sharing the road with drivers, motorists must be made aware of the importance of attentive and careful driving on highways where workers are present. According to FHWA, nationwide there are three work zone fatalities per day and one work zone injury every nine minutes. Caltrans has a comprehensive safety program that all highway maintenance employees are trained in and are required to follow.

Caltrans launched the Slow for the Cone Zone public safety campaign in 1999 to heighten public awareness; and Caltrans asks motorists to continue to remember to "Slow for the Cone Zone."

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CALTRANS