

RESOLUTION NO. 3-0324

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE IOWA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 15 THROUGH APRIL 19, 2024 AS "WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK" IN IOWA COUNTY

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Federal Highway Administration partnered with the American Association of State Highway Officials and more recently the American Traffic Safety Services Association to create the National Work Zone Safety Awareness campaign which is held annually in April prior to construction season in much of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin County Highway Association is asking all seventy-two counties in the state to unite and kick off "Work Zone Safety Awareness Week" with a resolution and campaign to raise awareness for its workers, the traveling public, public safety workers, and those of various highway contractors performing work for the counties; and

WHEREAS, construction and maintenance activities on our streets and highways periodically require that work zones be established; and

WHEREAS, there has been over 2,000 work zone crashes in Wisconsin in each of the last three years; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 857 fatalities in 774 work zone crashes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Wisconsin suffered from nearly 2,700 crashes in road construction and maintenance zones, resulting in over 1,000 injuries and six fatalities; and

WHEREAS, between 2012 and 2017, there were 55 fatalities recorded as a result of crashes in Wisconsin work zones including three Wisconsin County Highway workers which were killed in work zones in 2015; with another recent fatality of a County Highway Worker in Milwaukee County in 2023; and;

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 513 crashes reported in Iowa County of which 8 occurred within a Work Zone and resulted in three injuries; and

WHEREAS, through their enforcement activities and other participation, the Iowa County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, and Iowa County Highway Department are committed to working together in 2024 to make Work Zone Awareness Week a success, And;

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has designated April 15 through April 19, 2024 as National Work Zone Awareness Week with a Wisconsin state kickoff event on Tuesday April 16th;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Iowa County Board of Supervisors that the week of April 15 through April 19, 2024 be designated as Work Zone Safety Awareness Week in Iowa County.

The theme or slogan for 2024's event is "Work Zones are *temporary*. Actions behind the wheel can last forever."

Adopted this 19th day of March, 2024.



Vice Chair
County Board Chair, John Meyers.

Attest:



Kristy K. Spurley, Iowa County Clerk.

Work Zone Safety

Briefing and General Talking Points

- Every driver makes a difference.
 - Your good choices behind the wheel are good for us all.
 - We ask everyone:
 - Be mindful of speed.
 - Watch for changes in conditions.
 - Eliminate all distractions – Buckle up phones down.
- The national campaign slogan this year is “work zones are a sign to slow down.” No matter the side of the barrels you are on, you play a role in everyone’s safety.
- Over the past five years there have been more than 11,000 work zone crashes killing 63 people and injuring more than 4,300.
- Buckle up, phone down – every trip every time.
 - It is illegal to use a handheld phone in a work zone. (\$162.70 first offense and over \$200 for second offense, enacted 2016) with zero tolerance for any texting while driving.
 - Emergency Response Area Safety. Drivers must provide a safe work zone for emergency responders on the highways. This law took effect December 2021 which aims to protect first responders. Wisconsin Act 115 defines an emergency or roadside response area as the section of road within 500 feet of an authorized emergency vehicle with a visible signal, or a tow truck with flashing red lights. Fines double where crews are working on highways.
 - Move over law. Drivers must provide a safety zone for stopped law enforcement, emergency response and maintenance vehicles. The law requires drivers to shift lanes or slow down in order to provide a "safety zone" for law enforcement vehicles, emergency response, tow trucks or highway maintenance vehicles that are stopped on the side of a highway with its warning lights flashing.
 - A reduced speed of 55 mph may feel slow compared to 70, but you are still covering the length of a football field in less than four seconds while driving through a work zone.
 - Any small lapse in judgment can create a huge impact.
 - What might seem like a minor distraction can create major impact.
- With narrow, shifting lanes, work zones can present a challenge to all drivers under any circumstances. It is always important to limit distractions and give undivided attention to the road.
- Remember that work zones aren’t limited to major construction. They also include maintenance, emergency vehicle stops, utility work and even garbage pickup. Being able to identify a work zone is important for drivers to stay safe.
- We ask that drivers expect the unexpected and stay alert at all times.
- We ask that drivers take necessary precautions when entering work zones, and also use tools like 511 Wisconsin to get valuable information about road work and delays so that they don’t find themselves in such a hurry.

How can people help?

- Most importantly, drive safely, avoiding distractions and obeying posted speed limits. Be courteous and patient. Set a good example for others on the road.

- Advocate for safe driving. Show support for work zone safety by using social media hashtags - #NWZAW, #WorkZoneSafety, or #Orange4Safety (but please never text and drive)
- Participate in “Go Orange Day” on Wednesday, April 17, but wearing orange in support of safety. (#Orange4Safety)