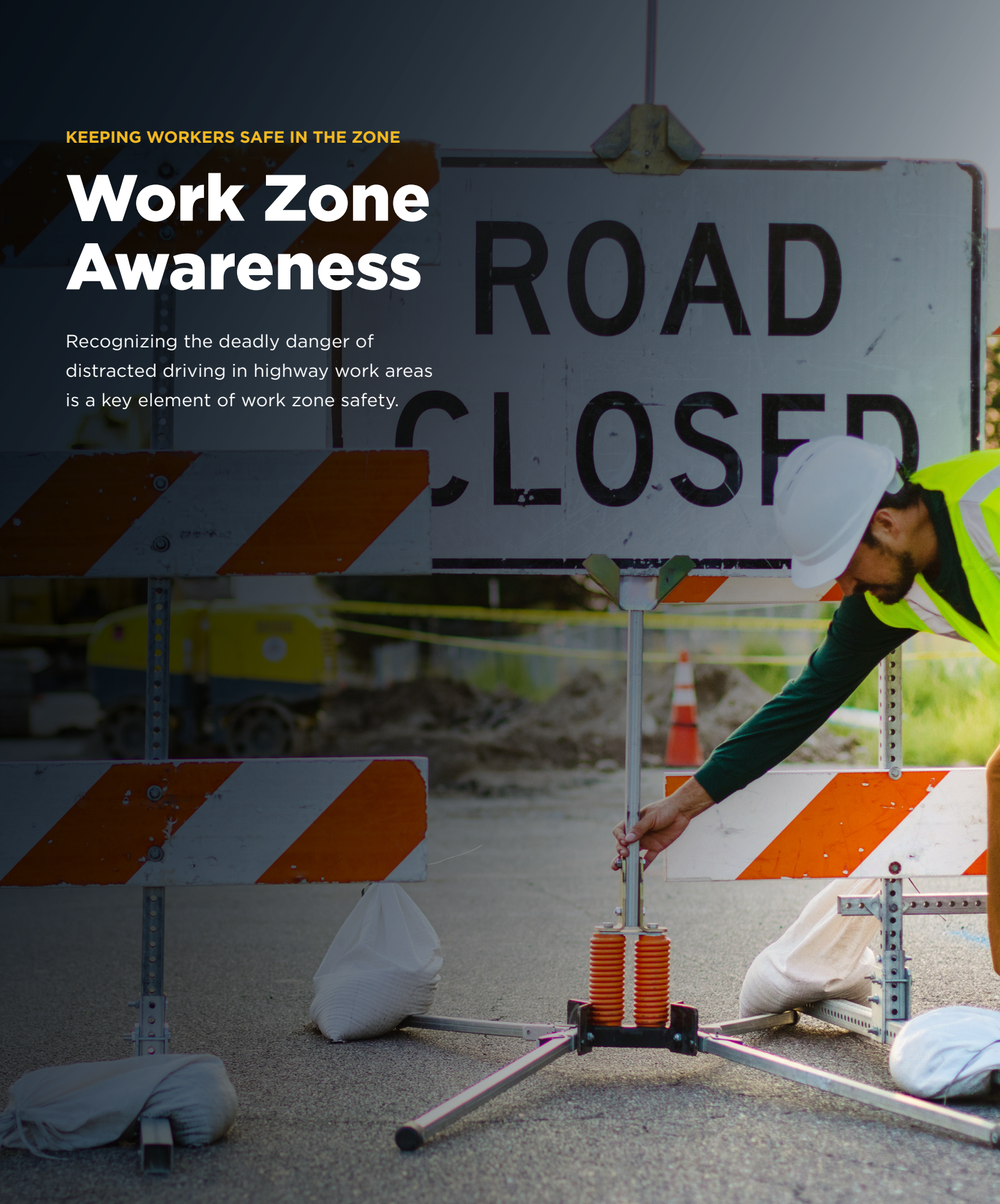


KEEPING WORKERS SAFE IN THE ZONE

Work Zone Awareness

Recognizing the deadly danger of distracted driving in highway work areas is a key element of work zone safety.

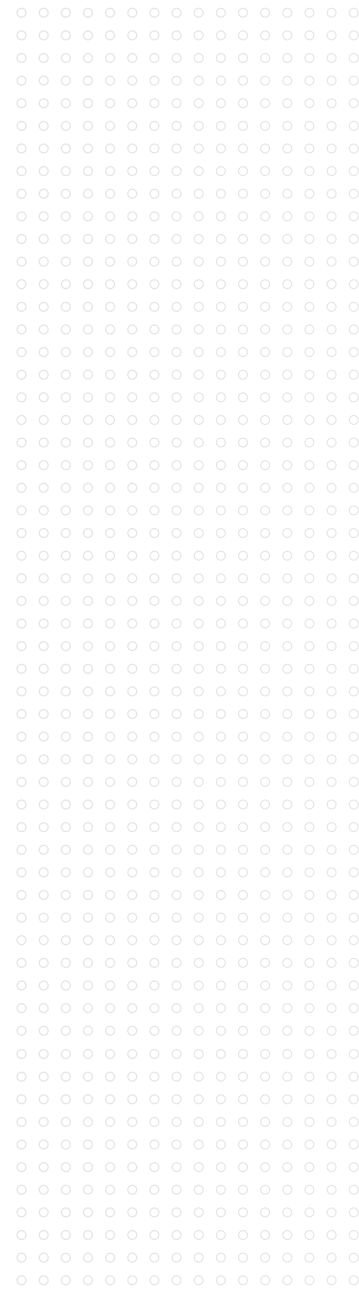




Accidents in work zones continue to occur at alarming rates. In 2020, work zone fatalities reached a 16-year high, with more than 857 deaths and 45,000 injuries occurring in work zone crashes.¹ More than 100 road construction workers were among those who perished in work zone accidents.

Traffic fatalities in the U.S. continue to increase, with the U.S. Department of Transportation reporting the largest six-month hike in motor vehicle crashes ever recorded during the first half of 2021.²

While work zone crashes involving rear-end collisions and those involving commercial motor vehicles dipped slightly in 2020 from 2019, an increasing number of speed-related crashes offset any positives. In addition, the number of fatalities involving individuals on foot or bicycles in work zones grew more than 20% in that same time frame.³



¹ Roads and Bridges, [“Work zone fatalities at highest level since 2006, new data shows.”](#) April 28, 2021.
² U.S. Department of Transportation, [“USDOT Releases New Data Showing That Road Fatalities Spiked in First Half of 2021,”](#) October 28, 2021.
³ Federal Highway Administration, [FHWA Work Zone Facts and Statistics](#), accessed March 2, 2023.



You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us.

This year's Work Zone Awareness Week theme highlights the need for everyone to commit to making work zones safer by slowing down when driving in them and remaining focused when approaching and passing through a road construction zone.

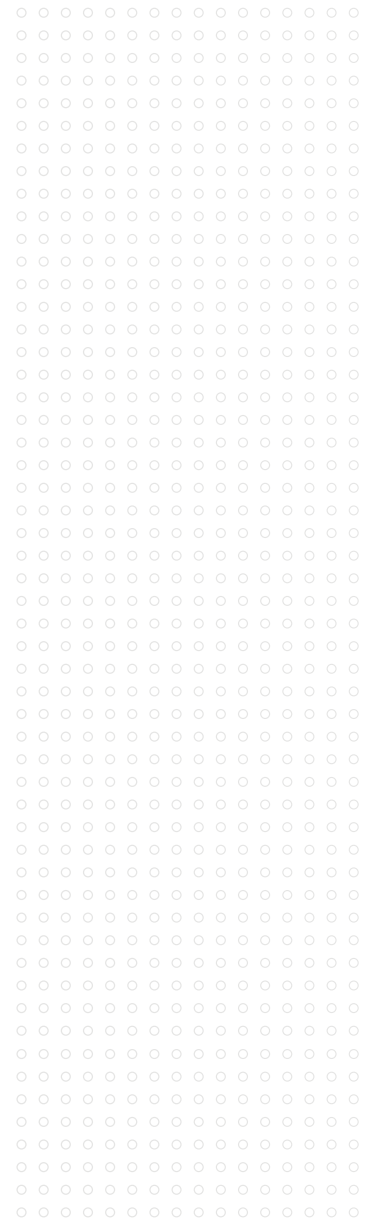
Government agencies and private entities allocate a significant amount of public and private funds each year to improve work zone safety, promote awareness of the dangers and protect workers. Here are several important aspects to consider:

ENVIRONMENT

Whether a work zone is located in a busy city or on a rural highway, each environment presents challenges to maintaining a safe worksite, and the potential hazards an environment could present must be considered. Pedestrian traffic can be unpredictable if not properly controlled, and animals, such as deer, may run through a construction zone late at night, startling drivers and causing unexpected reactions.

TYPE OF WORK ACTIVITY

The type of work being performed can expose workers to greater risk. Installing signs, reopening lanes, flagging, collecting debris, repairing utilities, paving, surveying and other tasks can increase both workers' or drivers' exposure. Each task — and its effect on the overall safety of the worksite — should be evaluated carefully. Put all controls in place before work is performed.



ROADWAY AND WORK ZONE CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics of a roadway or work zone significantly impact the level of risk. Lane closures, changes to road markings, uneven road surfaces, road bends and other factors can make navigating a work zone more challenging. Combining these factors with unsafe drivers could result in serious or fatal accidents. Properly training workers on the risks and installing signage to encourage a heightened awareness among drivers can help prevent costly accidents.

TRAFFIC VOLUME

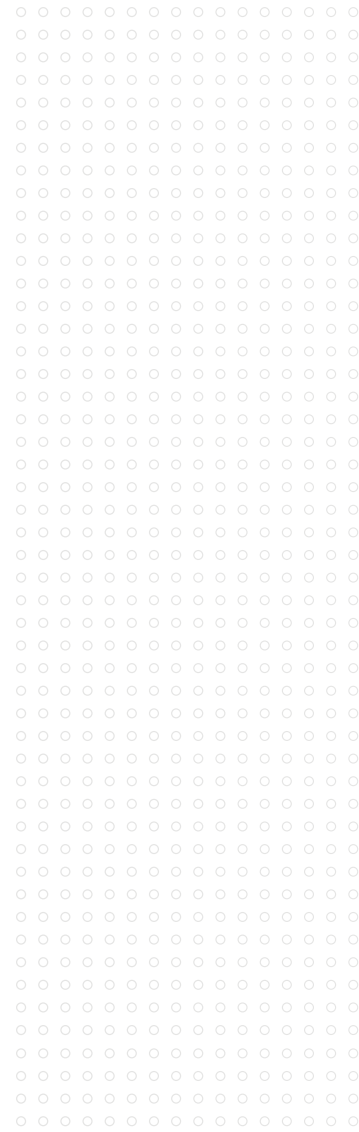
Traffic volume can influence safety in a work zone. Moving vehicles, speed differentials, lights, operating construction equipment and more can distract both workers and drivers. Implementing traffic control plans that consider both the flow of construction and vehicles may reduce risk.

DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

Driver behavior can be unpredictable. Drivers may not adjust their speed based on speed reduction signage, and may not be sufficiently aware of the risks a work zone presents to both themselves and workers. Distracted driving remains the top cause of motor vehicle accidents and workers can never assume every driver is paying attention.

CONTROL SYSTEMS AND DEVICES

Traffic control systems and devices play an important role in work zone safety. Each work zone must be carefully planned and constructed. Safety policies must be followed by all to mitigate risk for drivers and workers.





Implementing Controls to Reduce Risk

Creating a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) in your work zone can significantly improve safety for workers, pedestrians and motorists.

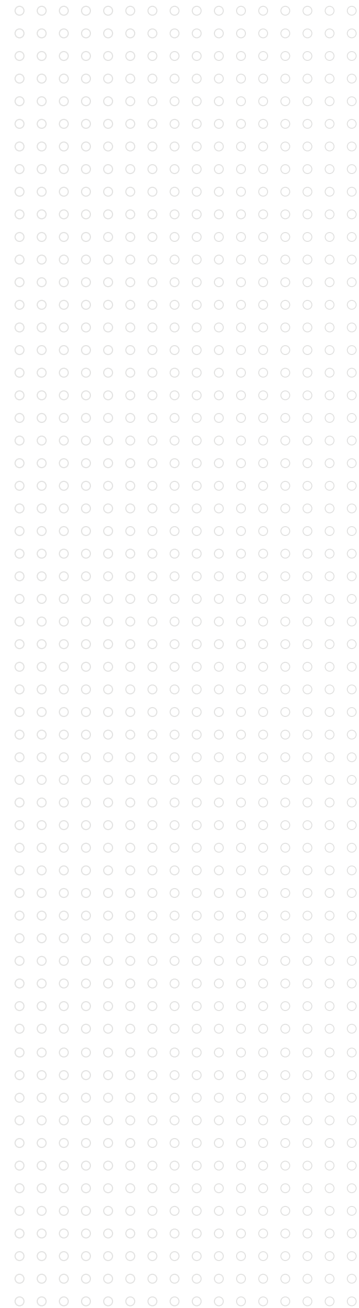
An effective TCP will:

- **Employ safety strategies.** Using techniques such as temporary traffic controls, public information and transportation operations, TCP designers and contractors can design a safe work zone. The likelihood of an incident occurring in the work zone should be reduced or prevented by employing these strategies.
- **Embrace technologies.** In addition to adhering to the TCP established by the designer, the contractor planning the work zone may employ a variety of technologies, including a Work Zone Intrusion Alarm System, a Worker Alert System and a Wrong Way Vehicle Detection System. These systems are designed to complement the traffic control devices that are already in place.

Contact HUB International's [Risk Services Division](#) for more information on safe work zones.

Additional Work Zone Resources

- [Federal Highway Administration Work Zone Training Examples and Resources](#)
- [OSHA Highway Work Zones and Signs, Signals and Barricades](#)
- [HUB International Construction Practice](#)



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