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Summer is a busy time for road construction, but no matter how annoying or inconvenient construction may be; we need to remember several things in order to safely travel through work zones. Work zones can be especially stressful and dangerous to navigate because of construction vehicles, workers on the highway, narrow lanes, barrels, flags, or cones. What's more, work zones can be especially expensive to drivers, as speeding tickets and criminal punishments are doubled in these areas. Consequently, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation recommends that all Wisconsin drivers follow several tipsâ€”no matter how obvious they may seemâ€”when driving in a work zone.

1. Slow Down : The faster you go, the longer it takes to stop, so observe the speed limit and slow down.

2. Do Not Fool Around : Pay attention to your surroundings. Be sure to eliminate distractions like eating, drinking, talking or texting on the phone, or using devices such as the radio or GPS.

3. Expect The Unexpected : Speed limits may be dramatically reduced, traffic lanes might be changed, and people and vehicles may be working on or near the road.

4. Give Yourself Room : Rear end collisions are the most common work zone crashes so be sure to give yourself plenty of room to stop.5

5. Be Patient And Follow The Law : If you do not see workers on the road, that does not mean they are not there. Observe work zone speed limits until you see a sign that indicates you have left the work zone.

6. Plan Ahead : Give yourself a little more time and leave early. On the other hand, you could plan an alternative route to avoid the work zone altogether.

The latest road conditions and work zone news can be found at http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/driving-cond.htm.

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