



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana's TIMED Program Encourages Safe Driving in Construction Zones
National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week, April 7-11, 2008

BATON ROUGE – National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week is April 7-11 and Louisiana's TIMED Program is committed to reminding motorists to slow down, read the signs and plan ahead when driving through construction work zones.

“Road and bridge construction projects can span more than a year and often, drivers become immune to work zones after driving through them on a regular basis,” said Dana Newsome, TIMED Spokesperson. “Roadway conditions and traffic patterns can change overnight in construction areas and drivers must stay alert and aware while in work zones.”

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reports:

- There is one fatality every 8.7 hours in a work zone in the U.S. (almost 3 each day)
- There is one work zone injury every 9 minutes in the U.S. (almost 160 each day)
- Eighty-five percent of those killed in a work zone are drivers or occupants
- More than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones

There are currently more than 200 miles of TIMED roadways and bridges under construction throughout Louisiana, including four-laning on U.S. 171, U.S. 167 and U.S. 165; the new Audubon Bridge between New Roads and St. Francisville; and the widening of the Huey P. Long Bridge in Jefferson Parish.

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“To help raise awareness for safer work zones, we encourage people throughout the state to wear orange the week of April 7 - 11,” Newsome said. “Orange is a nationally recognized color associated with work zones and we would like motorists to see others wearing orange and think about safety in Louisiana’s work zones.”

Tips for Motorists to Remember for Safer Driving in Work Zones

- Slow down – obey posted speed limits which are often reduced
- Pay attention to signs
- Minimize distractions, such as phones, the radio or interacting with others in the vehicle
- Keep up with the traffic flow – avoid “rubbernecking” at construction work
- Plan ahead and allow extra time for lane closures and other traffic delays
- Do not tailgate other vehicles or construction equipment
- Be patient and stay calm – the workers are improving the highways for you

For more information on the TIMED Program, contact the Public Outreach Office at 1-866-846-3352 or visit www.timedla.com.

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