**Talking Points: Work Zone Awareness 2020**

**Work Zone Statistics:**
- In 2019, 18 people were killed in work zone crashes in Missouri.
- Between 2015 and 2019, 64 people were killed in work zone crashes in Missouri.
- Between 2015 and 2019, 3,685 people were injured in Missouri work zone crashes.
- Since 2000, 19 MoDOT employees have been killed in the line of duty, 13 of them taking place in work zones.
- The best defense in a work zone crash, or any crash, is a seat belt. In 2019, 64 percent of vehicle occupant fatalities were not wearing a seat belt.
- The top five contributing circumstances for work zone crashes: distracted/inattentive, following too close, improper lane usage, driving too fast for conditions and failing to yield.

**Buckle Up Phone Down in Work Zones:**
- Buckle up and put your phone down in work zones.
- Reading a text message takes an average of 5 seconds. At 55 mph, you will travel more than the length of football field – blindfolded.
- Motorists are reminded to slow down and pay attention as they drive through work zones.
- Any time highway workers are present on a Missouri roadway – whether it’s a long-term lane closure, a moving operation, or shoulder work – your safety and the safety of those workers depends on drivers’ focus and attention.
- Missouri’s Move Over law requires drivers to change lanes, if safe to do so, when approaching MoDOT vehicles, law enforcement vehicles and any other emergency vehicle with lights flashing. If drivers can’t change lanes safely, they must slow down as they pass the emergency vehicles.
- Motorists should take turns merging every other car where lanes are reduced, or motorists need to move over for workers or emergency vehicles on the road.
- Motorists can use MoDOT’s Traveler Information Map at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org) before they travel to find out where they will encounter work zones.
- Motorists can fill out a work zone report card at [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org) to let crews know how they’re doing.

**Other Work Zone Information:**
- Motorists should pay attention to their speed. Traffic volumes across the country are down approximately 40% as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but MoDOT officials and their law enforcement partners are seeing an increase in speeding on Missouri highways.