

Construction Zone Safety

The fact is, 900 collisions, injuries, or fatalities, and millions of dollars in property damage occur every year in Alberta construction zones. While road construction improves motorist safety in the long run, it increases the risks drivers face in the short term. Be prepared for road construction season in Alberta!



Approaching

- When approaching a construction zone in Alberta, drivers will generally pass through three outer zones.
- Adjust your speed to gradually slow down to the posted speed limit. Slow down further if visibility or conditions are poor.
- Always leave plenty of space between your vehicle and other people, and equipment parked or being operated at these locations.
- If your lane is blocked and no one is directing traffic, yield to oncoming traffic.
- Be aware of and prepared for motorists who might cut in front of you or stop unexpectedly.



Zone 1

Advanced Warning Area

What to expect ahead



Zone 2

Transition Area
Lane closure/
reduce speed/
no passing signs



Zone 3

Buffer Area
Traffic cones/
barricades to
protect workers
and equipment

Driving Through

- If convicted of speeding through a construction zone, fines are doubled, even if there are no signs and workers are present.
- Be patient, expect delays and be aware your trip may take a little longer.
- Road construction can happen at any time and doesn't just occur in the daytime hours.
- Obey directions by flag people or other construction workers.
- Be on the lookout for construction workers and machinery, and be prepared to stop should they enter your lane. The faster you drive, the longer it will take to stop.
- Steer clear of construction barrels and cones. Hitting these puts construction workers at risk and can cause damage to other vehicles.
- There may be less obvious/hidden hazards which can damage vehicles such as fresh oil, loose gravel chips, and uneven pavement.
- Do not speed up prematurely. Only start accelerating once you've seen signage clearly stating you've left the construction zone.
- Large construction vehicles require extra time and space to stop and turn. Avoid their blind spots. Keep in mind, if you can't see the driver, they likely can't see you.
- Don't drive distracted! Not only is texting and driving illegal, but construction adds additional unfamiliarity to your route and requires your undivided attention.

Visit 511 Alberta for up-to-date road information including traffic delays and road construction