



# Oklahoma Highway Safety Fact Sheet

Work Zone Crashes 2001

March 19, 2003

## Work Zones

### Statewide Crashes

In 2001, there were 1,790 (2.3% of the total) traffic crashes that occurred in Work Zones on Oklahoma's roads. Nine of these crashes were fatal with 10 people killed. In addition, 691 of these crashes were injury crashes with 1,033 people injured.

### Causes

In 2001, the three principal causes of Work Zone crashes were:

1. Following Too Closely (19.4%)
2. Unsafe Speed (13.5%)
3. Inattention (12.5%)

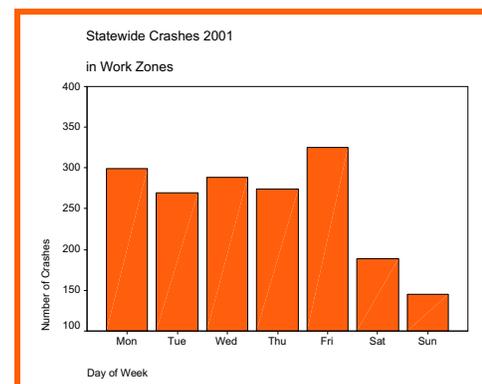
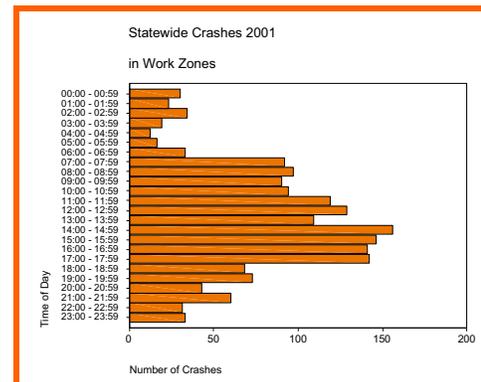
Of the crashes caused by Following Too Closely, 50.1% were following too closely for traffic conditions.

Of the crashes caused by Unsafe Speed, 43.4% were traveling at speeds unsafe for traffic conditions.

Of the crashes caused by Inattention, 80.4% were an unspecified distraction.

### Time and Day

Work Zone crashes peaked between the hours of 1400 (2 p.m.) to 1800 (6 p.m.) and were on Friday more than any other day of the week.



## Other Crash Facts

1. 75.5% were in daylight.
2. 46.1% were in clear weather and 45.1% were with clouds present.
3. 54.1% were in a business locality.
4. 68.8% involved two vehicles.
5. 41.7% were on city streets and 24.8% were on Interstate Highways.
6. 30.1% were in Tulsa County.
7. 27.8% were in Oklahoma County.
8. 12.2% were in Cleveland County.

## Seat Belts

Of the 10 fatalities in Work Zone crashes, nine were drivers in a passenger vehicle or pickup truck. Of these nine fatalities, 66.7% were not using seat belts.

## Persons

There were two bicyclists, 3,577 drivers, 12 pedestrians, and 299 passengers<sup>1</sup> involved in Work Zone crashes in 2001.

## Driver Age & Gender

In 2001, 8.6% of the licensed drivers were age 16-20, but 14.9% of the drivers in Work Zone crashes were in this same age group.

Some 12.9% of the drivers were age 21-25.

Some 48.7% of Oklahoma's licensed drivers were male, while 59.4% of the drivers in Work Zone crashes were male.

## Vehicle Type

Some 65.2% of the drivers were in passenger vehicles, 21.9% were in pickup trucks, 5.1% were in a truck-tractor/semi-trailer combination, and 3.5% were in a single unit truck.

## Road Character & Surface

Some 69.2% of the drivers were on a straight road that was level and 19.7% were on a straight road with an upgrade or downgrade.

Only 4.6% of the drivers were on a curved road that was level and 3.9% of the drivers were on curved road with an upgrade or downgrade.

## Alcohol/Drug Related

Some 2.8% of the drivers in Work Zone crashes had an Alcohol/Drug Related driver condition.

Of the drivers with an Alcohol/Drug Related driver condition, 84.2% were male.

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Oklahoma Highway Safety Office  
3223 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Okla. City, OK 73105-5403  
Phone: 405/523-1570  
Fax: 405/523-1586

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<sup>1</sup> Only injured passengers are entered into the Department of Public Safety database.