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## **SOUTH DAKOTA SHOULD SET GOAL OF CUTTING WORK ZONE FATALITIES IN HALF WITHIN TWO YEARS**

*Associated General Contractors of South Dakota Says Goal is Needed to Reduce Over 1,150  
Crashes Near Highway Construction Sites in the State Over the Past Five Years*

**Pierre, SD** – South Dakota should set a goal of reducing the number of highway work zone fatalities by fifty percent within the next two years as the best way to improve the safety of areas around highway construction sites, Toby Crow, executive vice president of the Associated General Contractors of South Dakota said today.

Noting that 16 people have been killed in South Dakota's highway work zones since 2004, Crow said it was time to set a state-wide goal to improve safety. He added that setting a two-year goal to cut those fatalities in half would put needed focus on improving work zone safety as countless stimulus-funded projects get underway.

“There is simply no reason that people are dying in our highway work zones,” Crow said at the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual National Work Zone Awareness Week. “It shouldn't cost a life to rebuild a road or repair a bridge.”

Crow credited state officials for working hard to improve the safety of the state's highway construction areas. He noted for example that many states double moving violations near work zones and regularly post law enforcement officials near road construction sites. But he added that despite those measures, over 630 people have been injured in highway work zones during the past five years.

“It is time to back good intentions with hard results,” Crow said. “Setting clear targets is the best way to hold officials and motorists accountable for work zone safety.”

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